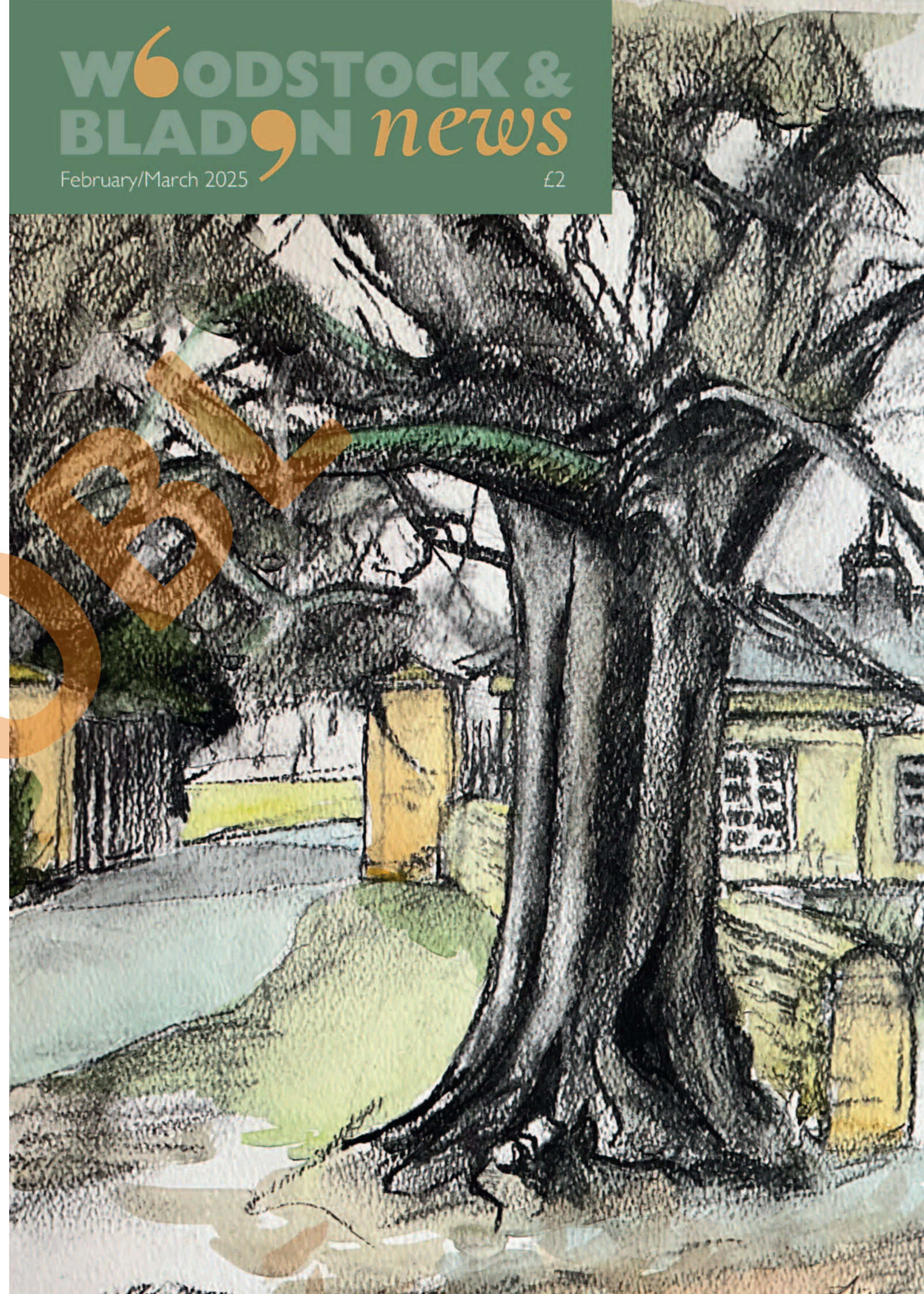


WOODSTOCK & BLADON *news*

February/March 2025

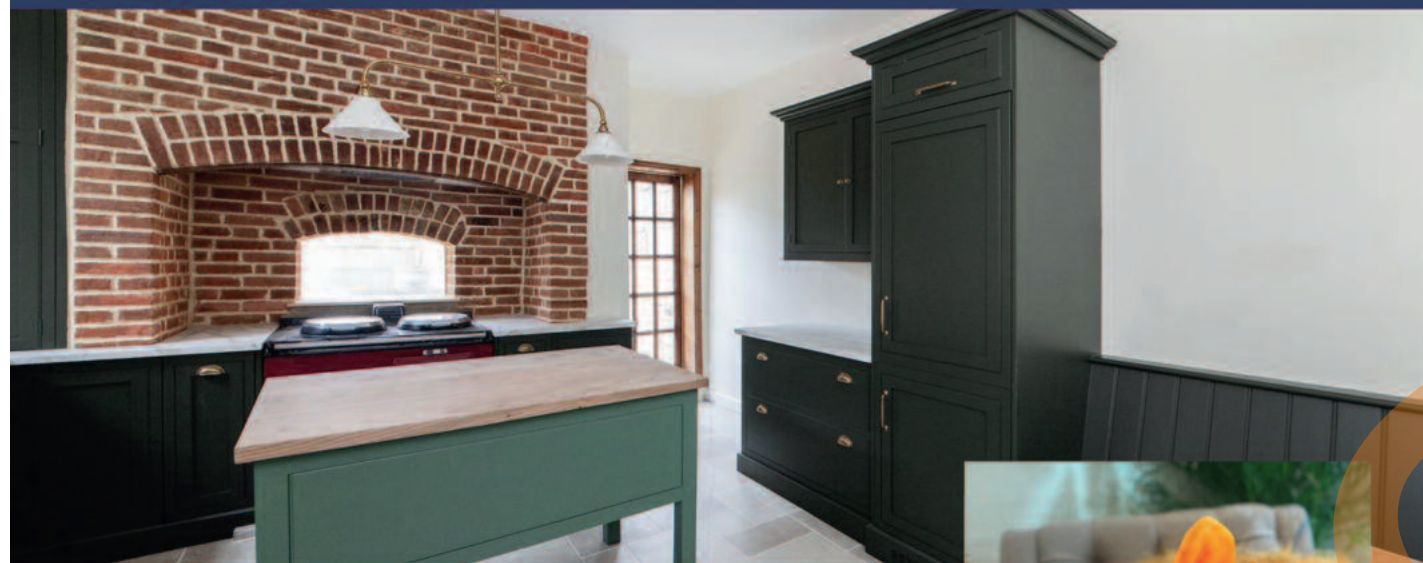
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WOODSTOCK &
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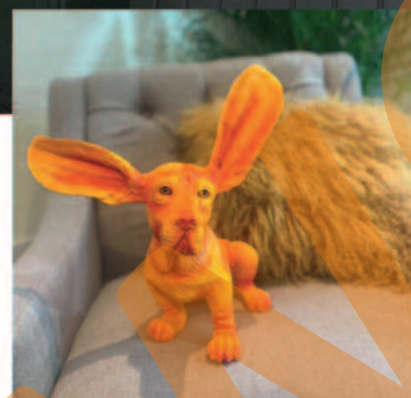
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Editorial

It's strange to think that we are half-way through my first year as Editor. Time has flown, so I must be having fun! I hope all our readers are enjoying the magazine as well. Please feel free to let me know of any ideas that you may have for articles.

This month, we return to 'Woodstock Around the World' with a wonderfully written article by Clare, a former resident, about Woodstock in Victoria, Australia. And there are reviews of past events, and notifications of future exhibitions, concerts, and items of interest to everyone. Please let me know of any events that you want published - see Page 41.

Letters are the life blood of local magazines, and I am grateful to all the writers. This month, we have more than usual, and therefore I have had to add an extra 4 pages. We do not always have to agree with what is in each letter, but at least we still have an opportunity to say these things, and of course this then opens up the right to reply!

There is also an article about the Transplant Games, coming to Woodstock, Blenheim Palace, and Oxfordshire at the end of July. It is a very exciting and emotional event, which is sure to attract national and local press interest, and I urge anyone who wants to take part, to sign up as a volunteer or sponsor, or you can even join the 2025 Donor run.

I wanted to express my personal sadness at the recent passing of Pete Adams and I offer my condolences to Jean and his family. Pete was born 97 years ago in the Woodstock Arms. He will be known to many people for his cheerfulness and for his many, many stories of the past.

With many thanks again to our contributors, to our distributors, to our advertisers, and of course to our readers and subscribers.

Nick Manby-Brown, Editor

Disclaimer: Woodstock and Bladon News is a community amenity relying significantly on voluntary contributions and support. The Editor cannot be held responsible for any of the views expressed in its pages, nor does it endorse any products or services advertised. The Editor reserves the right to cut, edit, or omit any article submitted for publication, or to refuse advertisements for reasons of space limitation, suitability, etc. The Editor's decision is final. The contents of this magazine are Copyright and the intellectual property of the Authors.

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There are many other reports and notices from local clubs and societies

Subscriptions

The magazine costs £2 per issue, or £20 per year.

It can be purchased locally at Blenheim Palace, Mary and Martin's Newsagent, Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock Bookshop, Woodstock Grocers, and Wootton Stores. It can also be delivered to your door on a monthly basis - please contact Nick (editor@wobl.news) for Woodstock, or Lucy for Bladon.

For bank transfer, please pay to Woodstock and Bladon News Limited - 04-29-09 - 81754981, and use the first line of your address as the reference. To pay by cheque, please make cheque payable to N Manby-Brown (the business account does not accept cheques) and send to 51 Plane Tree Way, Woodstock OX20 1PE.

An online version can also be purchased. Please send an EMail to editor@wobl.news

Please do write for our magazine

Send your contributions to: editor@wobl.news

The next copy deadline is **Sunday 23 March 2025** for the April issue.

We aim to be balanced and inclusive, and welcome new contributions that are of interest to our readers.

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Woodstock and Bladon News is printed on 100% sustainable paper which helps promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

Front Cover: Mid winter plein-air sketch of Eagles Lodge, Bladon, 2025 by Tim Massey

Answers to the January Crossword - The event in Woodstock on 31 July 2025 is 'Transplant Games'
Across: 7. Rebuttal, 9. Proven, 10. Etch, 11. Image, 12. Maid, 13. Espousal, 15. Dollar, 16. Stamps, 19. Digger, 21. Cinema, 23. Sympathy, 26. Snub, 27. Nasty, 29. Dill, 30. Claret, 31. Forsaken.
Down: 1. Deaths, 2. Mushroom, 3. Ulna, 4. Splendid, 5. Normal, 6. Hesitate, 8. Twigs, 14. Loads, 17. Triangle, 18. Stagnate, 20. Guardian, 22. Embark, 24. Mayor, 25. Helmet, 28. Safe.

Woodstock Literature Society

Review of a talk on Saturday 18 January 2025, by Professor Peter McCullough: John Donne, Poet and Preacher



John Donne is best known to most of us as a poet of often startling originality and intensity, but he was also, in later life, an outstanding preacher, and Professor McCullough introduced us to some of his methods and intentions in a fascinating talk.

In newly Protestant England, preaching had particular significance, and the sermon – lasting exactly one hour – took place after Divine Service. The preacher could choose any Biblical text he wished on which to base his sermon, and spoke directly to the congregation, rather than reading.

As with his poetry, Donne strove both for an emotional response from his listeners, a “stirring of religious affections”, and also a “holy delight” in the wit of reasoned argument. T.S.Eliot dismissed the sermons as merely performative, but Professor McCullough argued that Donne’s rhetoric served only to bring his listeners closer to an active spiritual understanding.

To illustrate Donne’s methods and effects, Professor McCullough told us about the sermon he preached at the funeral of William Cockayne, Lord Mayor of London, in 1626. Noting that Cockayne’s daughters were called Mary and Martha, he chose as his text Martha’s reproachful words to Jesus on her brother Lazarus’ death: “ If thou hadst been here, my brother had not died”. Working within the conventions of sermon structure, he came around to an analogy between physical death and spiritual imperfection, hinting at Cockayne’s own spiritual imperfections (he had almost caused the national economy to crash). The message of the sermon was that through God’s mercy, sinners are saved from spiritual death if they believe in the presence of Jesus.

Donne had lived a relatively long and turbulent life by the time he came to compose his sermons; he had known success and failure, love and loss, and a seismic shift from Catholicism to Protestantism, and his sermons represent the culmination of his life’s experience. Although challenging, Professor McCullough persuaded us that they are worth the effort of study.

St Mary Magdalene was packed for this our first talk of 2025, and we were well rewarded with an extremely interesting talk which, like one of Donne’s sermons, lasted exactly one hour, although we could have enjoyed listening for much longer.

For details of future talks see <https://sites.google.com/site/woodstockliteraturesociety/programme-2025>

Anne Handsley

Charity reception in Town Hall



On Friday 31 January Elizabeth Poskitt, as Chair of West Oxfordshire District Council, held a charity reception in the Assembly Rooms in Woodstock Town Hall. About 60 people attended from Town and Parish Councils from across Oxfordshire.

Her Charities were the Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum, Save the Children Fund and Woodstock Exhibition Foundation, with which she has close relationships. Representatives from her chosen charities spoke about their charities.

Robert Edwards and Elizabeth Poskitt then guided the guests around the wall hangings in the Assembly Rooms, which depict the major events in Woodstock’s history since Aethelred II (king from 978 to1013) up to the life of Winston Churchill. This interesting set of needlework was created by the Woodstock Broderers in the 1980s and 1990s.

A raffle, secret auction and donations raised over £1,000, which will be divided between the charities.



British Transplant Games - Volunteers Wanted



At 7.30pm on Thursday 13 February, about 30 of us enjoyed an evening of music, speeches, and requests to be Transplant Games volunteers. As mentioned in the January issue, this event will take place between Thursday 31 July and Sunday 3 August, and the opening ceremony will start with a parade of athletes from the town centre to the Great Courtyard at Blenheim Palace. There are 24 different sports in venues all around Oxfordshire, and the Donor run, the archery, and the petanque, will all be at Blenheim Palace.

Oxford Transplant Consultant, Dr Paul Harden, introduced the event and explained what was happening during the evening.

We were then shown a very moving video of Adam Isaac illness, life on dialysis, and eventually his transplant. His life was saved by the surgery, and one of the purposes of the Games is to highlight the importance of organ transplants. He also played some music written about his experiences (he is a singer-songwriter).



The point of the evening was to recruit volunteers, and Yuri Matischen, Managing Director of MLS Contracts (who are the event management company), explained what their role would be. They are looking for people willing to give up a couple of days to help with the running of the Games, but they are also looking for those who just want to help for the opening ceremony on Thursday evening, or the Donor run on Saturday.

Looking at the queue of residents signing up, it would seem that the evening was a great success.

But it is not too late to join
Please scan the QR code to
take you to the volunteer
form.



British Transplant Games - Volunteers Wanted





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Professor Hagan Bayley

“I was so glad I was able to take over the Woodstock Bookshop. My interactions with our committed and energetic staff and our loyal customers have brought me joy and time spent on the shop is a most welcome alternative to my other commitments” Professor Hagan Bayley



Professor Hagan Bayley, FRS

The shop’s most exciting current project is for a festival of the arts and sciences on the weekend of the 2nd to the 4th of May. The plan now taking shape is for a wide variety of sessions, some for children, some for poetry lovers, others for music lovers and a full afternoon in celebration of science during which four celebrated science writers will give short talks and then hold a panel for discussion. The free children’s session on the Saturday morning will take place in St Hugh’s Centre, while the afternoon celebration of science will take place in Woodstock Town Hall. Other ideas still in development include open-mike sessions for poets and musicians, and maybe some drama on the Sunday.

This will all be a combination of fun, intellectual challenge and great publicity for both the bookshop and Woodstock itself. There is also some serious philanthropy from Professor Bayley underpinning the festival, as it is not expected to run at a profit. More will be revealed in due course as plans develop, but in the meantime we can all look forward to the first weekend in May. Keep your eyes on WOBL for further information!

Linda Glees

It was with great relief (writes Linda Glees) that loyal customers of the Woodstock Bookshop learned the good news in January 2022 that the shop which had been for sale for some time had finally been purchased by a fellow book-lover who was firmly committed to its future as an independent bookshop. The buyer was Professor Hagan Bayley FRS, Professor of Chemical Biology at Oxford University, and the founder of the biotech company, Oxford Nanopore, a business which was ‘spun out’ of his research in 2005. The company now employs one thousand four hundred people at its base in the Oxford Science Park, and at sites throughout the world.

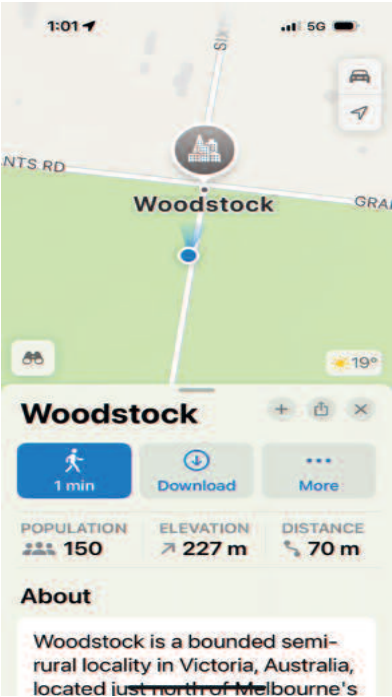
When we met recently I asked him as a bibliophile, scientist, and also a West Oxfordshire resident about his overall vision for the bookshop?

First and foremost, he thought that the bookshop had to have a strong local presence. It could act as a community support for local events and societies. Living as he does in Stonesfield, he is aware that Woodstock acts as a hub for many in the surrounding area. Offering a base for local publicity and ticket sales the bookshop could provide support for many events in Woodstock and the wider area. It could also offer leisurely conversations between customers and the widely read staff unlikely to take place in large chain bookshops



Helen Diamond and Lesley Collins

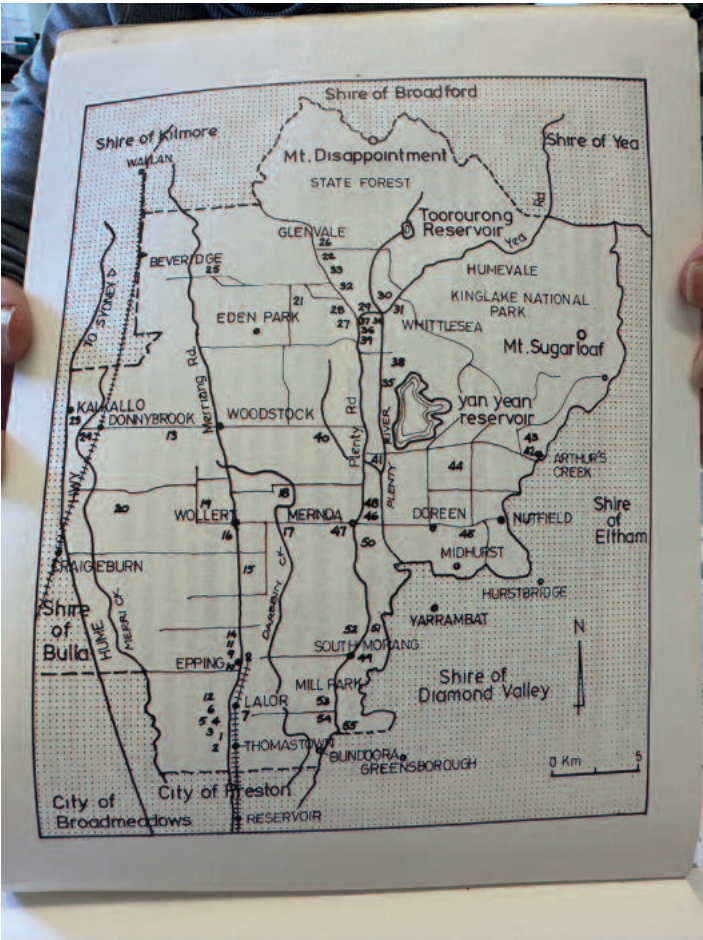
Woodstock, Victoria 3751, Australia



GPS and photo showing Woodstock, Victoria, Australia, in the middle of nowhere



Founded in 1841, by John Hunter Patterson - one of the earliest European settlers, the name Woodstock was given initially to his farm. The property is 54 kilometres (33 miles) north of the heart of Melbourne City. Woodstock is an Anglo-Saxon name meaning “a clearing in the wood” which undoubtedly this was literally as land in those days was native bush. Not surprisingly, the name was taken from Woodstock in Oxfordshire, UK, apparently the settler’s former home.



John Patterson arrived in Port Phillip, the bay on which Melbourne was founded in 1835, from Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) in 1836. There is no record as to whether or not he was there at the pleasure of King William IV, but given his achievements in later life, I doubt this very much...

More European settlers arrived in the 1850’s creating a community. A catholic school opened in 1854 and a hotel two years later. Clearly the settlement of Woodstock at this time showed a thriving community seated in the heart of rolling hills which once cleared, became prime grazing land.

While a grazing and mining investor, in 1859, John attended the University of Melbourne to study medicine, however, persistent ill health dogged him. Having said that, his work in dentistry and comparative anatomy remain highly regarded and feature to this day in the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

Still in close proximity of the Melbourne Central Business District and in the “City of Whittlesea” local government area (which isn’t a City at all), the parish of Woodstock is set in beautiful countryside. Driving from Melbourne, the first two-thirds of the journey are built-up, but the latter third opens out into wonderful

rolling hills, broken up by stands of massive gum trees, in mid-winter, it is swathed of bright yellow native Australian Wattyl trees. It’s not hard to appreciate why Australia’s international sporting colours are green and yellow (referred to as “green and gold”).

Woodstock’s 2021 census describes a population of a mere 150. Sadly, there remains nothing of a township and GPS coordinates take one to a simple unsigned crossroads out in the middle of nowhere. Exploring the area in every direction in the hopes of finding – even the skeletal remains of an old homestead or cottages proved futile. The entire area has been subdivided into 10 and 30 acre blocks, each with a modern house, many of which supported paddocks with horses. The nearby township of Donnybrook was home to the Donnybrook Hotel (hotel in Australia means pub) where the locals explained that the entire area was being developed. Massive billboards around Donnybrook advertise house and land packages in an ever increasing sprawl. Land that had once belonged to John Patterson which had been subdivided into blocks some years ago, is soon to be purchased by developers again for further subdivision and development into suburbia as Melbourne’s urban sprawl envelopes this beautiful countryside.

Renowned Australian contemporary poet (and horseman) Robbie Coburn hails from Woodstock. Former Western Australian Premier Philip Collier (1924-1930 and 1933-1936) and leader of the Labour Party from 1917-1936, and was WA’s longest serving Premier from that party - was born and raised in Woodstock, and Writer/Director Billy Rowlands (currently active) is also from Woodstock.

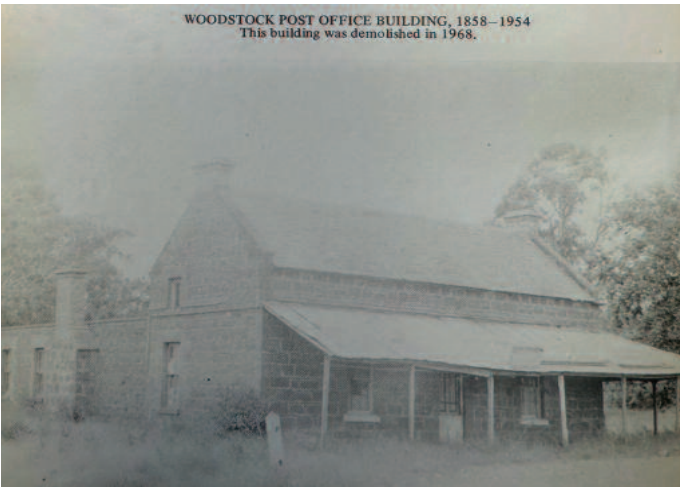
It is sad to see a community such as that which Woodstock had once been fade into obscurity. The reason why this once thriving township appears to have died was the coming of the railway to the western border region in 1872 which had a significant impact on stagecoach traffic to the area. Woodstock and neighbouring Donnybrook were not listed as localities in the 1901 census.

I wonder what John Hunter Patterson would think if he were to visit now...

Clare Poole, Past resident of Woodstock, Oxfordshire. Current resident of Melbourne.



Prince Philip visiting Woodstock in 1968



Woodstock Post Office - demolished 1968



McCoy's bluestone Cottage (& horse). No longer there



Sir Henry Barkly Hotel, Woodstock - demolished 1948

Adriana Young



We would like to wish Adriana Young a very happy 100th birthday! Born in Arezzo, Italy on 25th February 1925, Adriana married Officer Roy Young in 1946 and, after a time, moved to Oxford. In 1955, and with their young son Roland, Adriana and Roy moved to Market Place in Woodstock where Adriana has lived for 60 years this year.

Bladon Snippets from the Past

Beehive Cottage, the house next to the lychgate at St Martin’s Church - when I came to the village two beehive skeps; substantial in stone or pottery, were situated on the front of the cottage. Look up to the roof and just below each of the corners are two timber brackets to support them. I assume the skeps were stolen...no other reason has ever been given.

Hereby hangs a tale

Mary F. Sitch

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WOBL Around The World - Reprint

Please excuse the reprinting of this section. Last month, I felt that the images all came out too dark, and I am not quite sure whether this was a technical problem on my side, or a slight over-inking in the printing process. (For the record, we are extremely happy with the quality of the printing, but as I have a spare page, it was decided to reprint these images to make sure that we try to obtain the best quality for the future.)

Thank you to all the readers who have allowed their photos to be published.

Above:
Abdul is in the Atlas Mountains
Rick (and Jane) are in Hollis, New Hampshire, USA
Katja is outside the Christiansborg, Copenhagen, Denmark
Rachel and Fraser are in Kasbah Tamadot, Morocco
Fraser, Jay, Tim, Saffs, Caroline, Rachel (with Martin and Nick not in photo) are having a Christmas dinner at The Kings Arms, Woodstock
Alexander and Elizabeth are in Vietnam, Sue is at Brisbane airport

Editors Note: Please think about packing a copy of WOBL in your suitcase for the next journey, and then take a photo to show us where you have been.

10

11

Letters to the Editor

The Black Prince

I pass the now closed Black Prince pub every day and every day it looks more neglected and run down. It would be wonderful if WOBL could contact the owner and ask what the plan for reopening the pub is? A cynic might suggest a falling down pub in a prime location would be ripe for redevelopment as houses which would make a lot on the market - but I'm no cynic.

I have every faith the new owner plans to redevelop this local gem - but it would be wonderful if whoever they are could explain (perhaps here in March) what their plan is?

Ed King

Bus Shelters

As a frequent user of the buses locally, I am confused about the messages given over for the use of public transport.

If bus use is to be encouraged then bus shelters must be part of that provision. At many stops in Woodstock there is no shelter or seat, and the condition of existing shelters is bleak. I see that some shelters are to be given attention, very sad that it has taken so long to get this done.

Many times I pass people waiting at Hensington Gate stop and the current shelter is not big enough for the numbers there at prime time; the Perspex is very shabby and damaged. What view do visitors take away of our town, but also how does this encourage use by local residents.

The number 7 service is extremely useful but a further downside is the lack of bus shelters in Kidlington for the homeward wait. There is no shelter centrally for those coming north, and it seems very remiss that there are none in either direction at the Exeter Hall information hub. No seat and no shelter. Electronic time display would be of huge benefit at every bus-stop; not everyone has access to smart phone apps.

A joined-up plan should be expected - shame on those who are not supportive or pro-active in working towards clean and useable and effective public transport and waiting areas.

On a recent trip to Queensland, I used the vast array of buses which served the suburbs and beyond - fares were 50c (25p) for ALL journeys within the State, for all distances. Virtually all stops had shelters and seats, even in rural areas; they want people to use buses and give a high standard and safe experience. Yes - Australia has more space - but it is very doable to improve matters here; why isn't public transport given a higher priority?

Sue Blackshaw

The proposed development of Botley West Solar Farm: unanswered questions of uncertainty, food security and environmental impact

The scale of the proposed development of Botley West Solar Farm means that it escapes scrutiny by our local councils and is a matter for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. If that development were publicly-financed the Treasury would require it to be justified by social cost benefit analysis of the Green Book. Private finance of Botley West means there has been exploration neither of optimism bias, given a radically uncertain future, nor comparison of costs and benefits with other sites. These fundamental requirements of the Green Book ought to be crucial in assessing that proposal.

An example of optimism bias in the face of uncertainty is that, in 2024, we paid over £300m to windfarms in Scotland **not** to generate electricity (because the grid could not cope with excess supply). Given the scale of the proposed developments of wind farms across the UK, will we end up paying them not to generate electricity in summer heatwaves? These are increasing in intensity as one consequence of climate change. The Botley West Acceptance Stage Glossary does not explore such future uncertainties. Our recent floods mean that its assessments of flood Risk are now out of date. Unprecedented gales can **destroy** solar farms. Storm Daragh destroyed the 190-acre solar farm built in Anglesey in 2022: 'hundreds of panels were shredded and torn off their fixings ... and residents living nearby now fear land contamination from shattered solar panels'.

The Botley West proposal reports that, of the land surveyed, 95% is at least of moderate agricultural quality, and 36% of good, very good or excellent quality. Climate change is **reducing** the productive potential of agricultural land **across the world**: from changes in temperature, precipitation, wind speed, crop growth cycles, frequency of extreme weather events, and patterns of pests and diseases. Another known unknown are the **impacts** of wars on global food supplies, e.g., in Ukraine.

The justifications for choosing the **Botley West** site are: that it delivers a solar farm at scale to meet increasing demand for electricity from Oxfordshire's fast-growing economy; and its proximity to the Cowley substation minimises energy lost in transmission to the grid. But that criterion ought not be given overriding importance: it needs to be set against its losses in food security and environmental damage. The environmental damage caused by the development of Botley West is keenly felt by those living nearby. One way of estimating that damage as set out in the Green Book is that of 'hedonic pricing', e.g., the depreciation from the impact of a solar farm on the prices of the 10,000 houses within 1km of Botley

West, which may outweigh greater losses in energy in transmission from other sites that have few houses near them.

If Botley West were publicly-financed, then the Green Book would apply and require a comparison across sites in their capabilities to secure our future supplies of both green energy and food, and environmental impacts. Does private finance mean these comparisons are not required?

Gwyn Bevan

Editors Comment: The author has provided references for this letter and is happy to share them.

All act now or we could lose millions in community benefit from Botley West Solar Farm
During the past 2 years, whether for, against or something in between, much has been said and written on the developer's proposal (PVDP) for Botley West Solar Farm ... there's been much to say. We're now at the next stage of the National Infrastructure Planning process, called 'pre-examination' and we've learnt that the suggested community benefit by PVDP has improved since the 2nd consultation from £50K to £200K per annum for the lifetime of the project. (Community benefits are financial payments which can be made by developers of energy infrastructure to local communities that will be impacted by the development and currently paid on a voluntary basis in England). It is highly likely that the proposal will be approved by the Government in one form or another and the suggested £200K has been highlighted as totally inadequate, and should be £4.2million per annum. Space here doesn't allow me to go into detail but a figure of £5K per MW per year should be considered (£5K x 840 MW = £4.2million). This amount can be referenced and viewed – 'the briefings and the debate on community benefits at the Houses of Parliament (October 2024)'.

I encourage all your readers, Woodstock and beyond to feedback on the derisory level of community benefit suggested. If the proposal is agreed as it stands, communities throughout our area will miss out on millions of £s over the lifetime of the project. Don't let this be another water company story. Everyone can help this cause – search for - National Infrastructure project – then select Botley West - 'Register an Interest' . No need to give your view in detail at the point of registration but please register your concern over the level of community benefit ... whether you agree or disagree with Botley West. You just need to give a brief summary of your opinion and the detail you can submit later. There is more detail in Sustainable Woodstock's February newsletter.

Hilary Brown

Ensuring Safety in Blenheim Parkland During Dark Hours

As we transition from winter to spring, the days are gradually getting longer, but it remains dark from 17:00 until around 08:00. During these hours, Blenheim Parkland experiences increased contractor vehicle movements due to ongoing renovations, including a large roof project. Unfortunately, the limited lighting makes it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians, especially those wearing dark clothing.

Blenheim Parkland is a cherished space for fitness, mental well-being, and safe routes to school. To maintain its safety, we kindly ask all park users to take precautions during dark hours. Please wear high-visibility clothing and head torches, ensure your dogs are visible and on leads, and if cycling, use front and rear lights and wear helmets. Additionally, walking/running towards oncoming vehicles and avoiding headphones can help you stay aware of your surroundings.

By taking these simple steps, we can all contribute to keeping Blenheim Parkland a safe and welcoming place for everyone. Thank you.

Gavin Donnelly - Security Manager, Blenheim Palace.

Town Council Christmas Expenditure
I would like to share with you the text of a letter which I hand delivered to the Town Council today.

I am writing as a concerned resident of Woodstock to seek clarity on the expenditure allocated for Christmas trees and Christmas lights this year. While I appreciate the effort to create a festive atmosphere for our community, I am curious about the costs involved, particularly in light of current economic challenges. Specifically, I would like to understand:

1. The total spent on five standalone Christmas trees – can you confirm it was £4,5000 please?
2. How these costs were justified in the council's budget, and who negotiated with the supplier?
3. The Minutes show that £11,500 was approved for the original lights - can you confirm how much the Council actually paid the contractor?
4. Please can you explain the lack of adequate communication between two Councils about the pollarding, and what steps you are both making to make sure that this doesn't happen again?

I fully support initiatives that bring joy and community spirit, but I believe transparency and responsible spending are equally important, especially when other essential services might be under pressure. I would greatly appreciate it if you could provide details or direct me to where this information is available. I look forward to your response.

Dave Carrington

Letters continue on Page 32

Bells in Bladon



Anyone in Bladon on the morning of Thursday 30th January was treated not only to blue skies and sunshine, but the glorious sound of a full peal being rung on the church bells (in memory of Sir Winston Churchill). For a full peal, the bells are rung continuously, by the same ringers, in 5040 different sequences. To create the different sequences, each ringer changes the position of their bell in the relation to the others. On the six bells of St Martin's in Bladon this lasts about 2.5 hours - needless to say, ringing a full peal requires a great deal of stamina and concentration!

There are hundreds of different patterns, known as methods, that can be created by changing the sequence of bells. Each bell can only move one place at a time, creating patterns ranging from simple to very complicated, but whatever the complexity ringers learn each method by heart. Several methods can be used to make up the 5040 changes of a full peal. Every method has its own name.

Peals are often rung on special occasions, with the peal in Bladon on 30th January 2025 being rung to commemorate the burial of Sir Winston Churchill in Bladon on 30th January 1965. After the internment, officers of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers rang a full peal of Plain Bob Minor with the bells were half-muffled, as is traditional for a funeral. A full peal was also rung in Bladon for the 50th anniversary of Churchill's burial, using the Cambridge Surprise, Plain Bob, and St. Clement's methods. This year's peal used St Nicholas, Winchendon Place, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place, St Simon's, St Martin's, Plain Bob, and Grandsire. It was organised and conducted by Richard White, Ringing Master for Woodstock and Witney; the other ringers for the 60th anniversary peal were: Lindsey C Thornton (treble), Alison T Merryweather-Clarke (2), Rosemary K Hemmings (3), Simon L Edwards (4) and Malcolm Fairbairn (tenor). It was a splendid sound and much enjoyed by those who heard it.

The bells in Bladon were cast in the Whitechapel Foundry, sadly no longer in operation, and hung in 1883. The tenor (heaviest bell) weighs 6cwt, 1qt, 18lb (just over one third of a ton) and is tuned to B. The treble (lightest bell) weighs 2cwt, 3qt, 26lb and is tuned to G sharp. The bells are rung every Sunday morning, and there's a practice on Tuesday evenings. Please email bladon@witneyandwoodstock.odg.org.uk if you're interested!

Elizabeth Owen

The Arts Society Cotswolds

Lecture on Wednesday 12th March 2025

The Art of Courtship in Paintings and Objects

This talk explores the customs and etiquette of courtship in Renaissance Italy through the rich legacy of objects made to celebrate and to commemorate love, and the pursuit of love, in a period when extravagant gift-giving and artistic production reached new heights. We will enjoy a close look at an abundant variety of gifts exchanged during courtship, and those made to celebrate love, that can be seen today in museums around the world. Intricately designed and produced in huge numbers, images on paintings and on objects and furnishings tell us a great deal about attitudes and beliefs at the time.

About the speaker:

Dr Lydia Goodson is an art historian and lecturer specialising in the art and material culture of Renaissance Italy. After a career in television production and raising a family Lydia returned to academia and now holds a BA in Renaissance History, an MA in History of Art and was awarded her PhD in 2020 from the Warburg Institute of the University of London, for her thesis on painting and patronage in Renaissance Perugia. This return to study as a mature student has given Lydia a passion for the benefits of life-long learning and she hugely enjoys writing and delivering lectures for audiences of all ages. She is an art history tutor for CityLit and regularly speaks to other adult learning groups. Lydia's research interests centre on painting production in Central Italy in the Renaissance. Lydia lives in Kent and the Umbrian region of Italy.

This hybrid lecture will be held at the Warwick Hall, Church Green, Burford, OX18 4RZ at 11am and via Zoom. Please be seated by 10.50 for notices of upcoming events. Numbers are no longer restricted but booking is recommended to reserve a place via our website or please call Lisa Etheridge on 01285 711805 for a booking form. Non-members are welcome (space permitting) at a charge of £10.

Knit For Peace



We're very pleased to share with readers this photo of our activities at Knit for Peace, mentioned in a previous edition of this magazine. Two wonderful bright, warm blankets have been made by more than 30 knitters/crocheters, and have gone to the charity to be sent on to people in great need.

Encouraged by this success, we are meeting again on the first Monday of February, March and April, at 2pm - 4pm in Woodstock Methodist Church. Do come and join our friendly group, either to participate or just for a cup of tea and chat. Further details from Sue Harper. Email: susanharper2@hotmail.co.uk

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Woodstock Town Council Meetings

14th January 2025

7 councillors and 9 members of the public attended the meeting. The audio of the meeting was recorded.

One member of the public spoke, former Mayor Nick Manby-Brown, regarding the upcoming election of town councillors. Nick, on behalf of Woodstock and Bladon News, had printed leaflets containing information written by the four candidates ahead of the election for the vacant town councillor positions and wished to display them in the Town Hall and on the Council noticeboard for the benefit of residents. He was told this was not allowed and against the rules by the Clerk and Mayor. Nick wanted to let the Councillors present know this had happened and to clarify the rules on this matter. Following a comment from Councillor Parnes regarding use of Council resources, Nick tried to reply but was told by the Mayor to sit down and not to speak.

County Councillor Andy Graham reported that he was working with the Town Council on pedestrian safety in the town and that 10 measures will be implemented regarding the A44. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) are on schedule and due to go forward for public consultation. Colin Carritt from Sustainable Woodstock and the Village Travel Network was thanked for his contribution. Regarding flooding, the County Council will review the flooding report on 21st January. The Shipton Road wooden railings will be repaired by Blenheim and the generators outside the Feathers Hotel will be removed by 31st January. The report also included details of the first meeting of the Woodstock Surgery Steering Group, chaired by Calum Miller MP, which took place in December. Blenheim and the doctors have jointly instructed Osmond Tricks to start a Project Initiation Document (PID), a key planning document used to outline a project's goals, scope and risks, for both the Banbury Road and Park View sites. Blenheim will pay for this. The report will take 4-5 weeks to complete and will be reviewed at the next meeting in mid-February. The Integrated Care Board and West Oxfordshire District Council will discuss if any S106 funding is available.

The report from the District Councillors included news of the Government proposal to remove the current two tier (District and County) system of local government in Oxfordshire. In the future model West Oxfordshire District Council would form part of a larger area that would have all council services delivered by a single council or 'unitary authority'. If agreed, the new administrations will be formed in 2027.

In the 'Walk and Talk' Report which was attended by Councillors Graham and Poskitt and Chris Grain from Oxfordshire County Council, loose kerbs, cobbles and potholes were identified and should be repaired within 28 days. The fallen bollards outside the Woodstock Arms were later confirmed the responsibility of the County Council Highways and will also be repaired.

The Council's response to the Cherwell Local Plan Review was deferred. It was noted there will be a West Oxfordshire District Council public consultation held in the Community Centre on 28th January (2-5pm) on this matter.

Under Finance, the current balance of the Town Council's account is £435,414.

Following the end of the access agreement from Verenia Court to the Old Woodstock Line Extension, after much investigation the Council has concluded that the entrance will be closed. The Verenia Court Management Company will install a fence. The Council will remove the steps and add signage to say it is now a dead end.

Various works to be carried out at the Lawn Cemetery, including paved seating areas, fencing, hedges and benches were discussed as the budget is now available. A survey of the Community Centre roof for the possible installation of solar panels was approved.

Councillor Williams updated the Council on actions regarding a possible new surgery. These included writing to Calum Miller MP and the Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board. Members of the Town Council were encouraged to object to the proposed development of the old police station site.

Councillor Parnes requested that the Council instruct a specialist consultant to perform an audit with respect to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Council agreed to obtain quotes.

Finally, the Council was asked to consider a National Association of Local Council's consultation regarding strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities. The Mayor did not see a need for this for various reasons and Councillor Poskitt suggested Councillors complete the consultation themselves.

Due to restrictions of space not all Council business has been included. For full details please refer to the Town Council website for agendas, documents and minutes.

Graham Brown



21 January 2025 (ETC)

Seven Councillors including two recently elected, and four members of the public attended. Apologies were received from Cllrs Lancaster, Addis, Spencer Churchill, Parnes and Wheatley. The Councillors briefly introduced themselves to the two recently elected Councillors and were similarly invited to introduce themselves. The proceedings were audio recorded only.

Cllrs Banbury and Poskitt registered their interest in four of the planning application applications to follow.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation but no members of the public spoke. The meeting was then reconvened. This arrangement ensures that any issues raised by members of the public at this time will not be minuted.

The Clerk reported on work on the New Road playground will be carried out as a Health and Safety issue.

The Mayor reported that the recent redecoration of the interior of the Town Hall omitted a small area on the first floor from the brief. This area will be redecorated at an additional cost which, as it is under £1000, can be agreed under discretionary powers of the Clerk and Mayor.

Cherwell Local Review: A draft response was reviewed for another planning application (for 400 houses this time) on the land next to Park View. The issue remains that the land in question lies in Cherwell District but has no impact on the parish of Shipton cum Cherwell within which it falls, or Kidlington, but will have lots of impact on Woodstock. There is to be an exhibition by the WODC at the Community Centre on 28 January from 2 to 5.15pm. All Councillors were urged to attend this exhibition and raise their comments and concerns. The Council's response will then be discussed at the WTC meeting on 11 February following attendance at the exhibition.

Four planning applications were discussed and no objections raised.

Karen Howe, the Financial Officer for WTC and Clerk of Bladon PC, who represents WTC on the Committee, updated those present. WTC is registered as an interested party following the application being cleared to go through for Inspection. The Committee charged with jointly negotiating on behalf of the 18 communities, affected to a greater or lesser degree, are currently discussing Community Benefits and what is the best legal way to secure the value of funds available, currently thought to be in the region of £200,000 and how to split it. The rules for S106 do not apply here, indeed the developer does not have to give anything. The parishes are required to submit ideas for what community projects they would spend the money on, however much the award, if any.

It is not thought that they would have to be environmentally focussed, but it may help. Community surveys are to be rolled out to give residents the opportunity to make suggestions. In due course the Committee will have the opportunity to present to the panel. The inspector has asked the developer to provide better maps to support their application.

An additional signatory was requested and Sarah Williams now joins Cllrs Grant, Lancaster and Poskitt as signatories for WTC accounts.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Annie Cripps

3 February 2025 (ETC)

9 councillors and 7 members of the public attended the meeting. The meeting was audio recorded.

Four members of the public spoke. Michael Bowles spoke as he was interested to note that on the meeting agenda a Civil Case was to be discussed following exclusion of press and public. Michael assumed it was to discuss the full report of the case brought against the Council by one of its Councillors in 2022. At that point the Mayor interrupted to say that it was a different Civil Claim. Michael continued to say that the previous case was dismissed in 2024 after a great deal of time, effort and expense by the Council and staff. He asked when a full report on the matter would be made available by the Council and when the Councillor had paid costs to the Council, from his recollection by 30th September last year. John Brimble then spoke on the same matter. John reiterated that it has been 6 months since the Civil Small Claims Court case where the judge had ordered Councillor Parnes to pay Woodstock Town Council £1,168.50. John referred to his public participation on 13th August last year asking if the amount had been paid to which the Council replied they were waiting for the judgement document before producing an official report. His further request at a more recent meeting was not minuted. John asked for transparency from the representatives of the community and that a public statement be included within the minutes of this meeting. He hoped that Council would consider the position of Councillor Parnes on the Town Council.

I then spoke regarding the Community Benefit from Botley West Solar Farm. I reminded the Council that the deadline to register as an interested party is 27th February and that the Council to please include reference to the community benefit that should be included in the proposal. Although this figure has increased from £50K to £200K per year this is still woefully inadequate for a project of this size and impact. Low Carbon Hub and other groups are

Town Council Reports continue on Page 22

Woodstock Exhibition Foundation

(Grants for Woodstock young people)

What was Woodstock Palace like?

We do not know what Woodstock Palace looked like in 1575, when Elizabeth I stayed for five weeks. How accurate the surviving depictions are is questionable.

Henry VII had visited Woodstock regularly. Even though he had the reputation as a miser, he spent £4,000, a huge sum over 500 years ago, modernising the palace. He put a new roof on the Great Hall, inserted bay windows, created a jewel house so he could bring cash with him, and built a new gatehouse. He took up real tennis and commissioned courts at Woodstock. Henry VII also improved his House at Langley, nine miles west of Woodstock, where he liked to stay in privacy and comfort leaving his court at Woodstock.

The outer courtyard of Woodstock Palace was approached via a gatehouse. In its middle was a fountain fed by gravity from a lake near the present High Lodge. The conduits were carried on an aqueduct over a valley to reach the Palace.

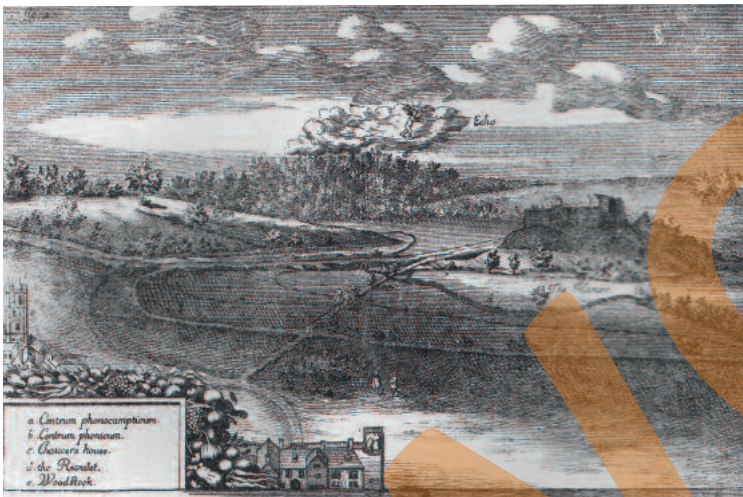
The Royal Lodgings were in a second courtyard. Unusually there was a Great Hall for both the king and queen. The king's was very large and approached by 35 stairs to emphasise his importance and status and to impress visitors. The queen's bedroom was linked to the King's privy chamber. Woodstock was also unusual in that both the king and queen had private drawing rooms in addition to the standard outer rooms. When the monarch was present, tapestries and furniture would be got out of store and put in the principal rooms.

Most departments of the royal household had carts or chariots assigned to them. Woodstock Palace would have needed extensive stabling with two wings: one for the horses of the monarch and the other for everyone else's. In 1541 the court included 1,000 horses and 800 members of Court, although the number of members of court had reduced by Elizabeth I's day to 600. At the beginning of Elizabeth's reign horse-drawn carriages were improved. Instead of the passenger compartment resting directly on the axle, the new coaches were slung on leather braces, giving a smoother and more comfortable ride. Elizabeth liked travelling by carriage and built new coach houses at her properties.

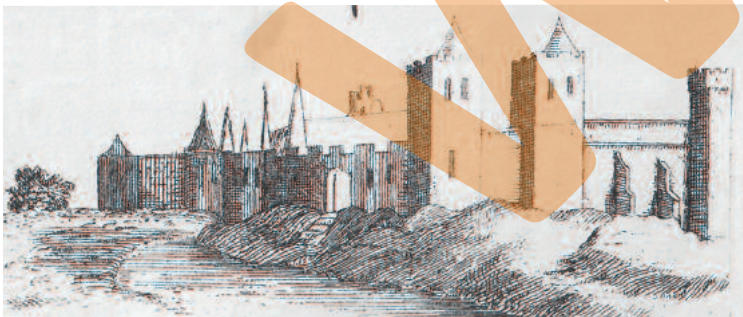
Frank Collingwood



Remains of Henry II's palace as it stood in Woodstock Park in 1714



View of palace from Chaucer's House in 1677



Early impression of the palace

**Elizabeth I on Progress:
performance, politics and popularity**

Monday 30 June in St Mary Magdalene Church

Speaker: Dr Alexandra Gajda

in aid of Woodstock Exhibition Foundation

Please support us.

Updates on 'Botley West'

Thermal Plumes - just hot air?

RAF Brize Norton and London Oxford Airport at Kidlington have raised new concerns about potential danger to pilots and air traffic, caused by the vast scale of the proposed Botley West Solar Farm development. They have told local councillors that thermal plumes - rising heat waves from acres of solar panels - could disrupt their sensitive modern radar systems and interfere with their air traffic controllers' ability to accurately monitor aircraft movements, especially during critical phases of flight.

Warm air from thermal plumes may cause distortions in radar readings, leading to potential inaccuracies and affecting operational efficiency.

In addition to radar interference, thermal plumes could create turbulence, which may affect flight stability. This could be particularly challenging for smaller aircraft, including helicopters, that are more sensitive to changes in air currents, especially during low-altitude operations.

Given the extraordinary scale of the project and the critical importance of aviation facilities, we hope these issues will be thoroughly investigated to ensure that this truly massive solar development (larger than anything that exists in the UK at present) does not impede flight safety, operational integrity, or the efficient functioning of airspace in missions supporting national security.

We would be very interested to hear from experts and residents on this matter. Let's try to ensure that all potential risks are acknowledged and carefully assessed - and development that impacts on flight paths and control zones in our very busy local airspace is not permitted.

HAVE YOUR SAY: COMMUNITY IMPACT SURVEYS

Stop Botley West are conducting surveys to understand the views of residents and businesses affected by the proposed Botley West Solar Farm. The results will contribute to our Community Impact Statement and feed into West Oxfordshire District Council's Local Impact Report - another important part of the Examination of the Botley West Solar Farm application. These do not take long to complete - most are just tick boxes but there's room to add more comments if you wish.

We encourage everyone to visit <https://stopbotleywest.com/surveys> and click on the BUTTONS on that page:

- RESIDENTIAL AMENITY & BUSINESS SURVEY
 - PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY SURVEY
 - CHILDREN SCHOOL & ACTIVITY SURVEY
- to complete and share your views - thank you.

Even if you have already submitted a 'Relevant Representation' to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), please also complete the surveys as they serve an important role in adding evidence to our Community Impact Statement.

THANK YOU: FOR SPEAKING UP

Thank you to everyone who came along to our SBW Community Information Events recently.

Also - Thank you to everyone who registered with PINS and submitted their 'Relevant Representation' prior to the deadline on 27th February 2025. As an 'Interested Party' you will be able to:

- send any further comments through the 'Have your say' form on the project information page of the PINS website (you need to give your interested party reference number)
- and be invited to attend examination meetings

Visit stopbotleywest.com home page and select 'Get Regular Updates'. We will keep you informed with a direct link to this form whenever there is a new instruction or deadline from PINS regarding examination topics. This is the easiest and most efficient way to make sure your additional comments are seen and considered by the Examining Authority.

PLEASE HELP WITH A DONATION

Please join us and make a donation to our fighting fund via stopbotleywest.com. If you are in a position to make a significant donation please contact our Chair: alex.rogers@stopbotleywest.com to arrange a personal meeting.

Thank you for your support

Stop Botley West, Hanborough Villages Group

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Sat: 8am – 12pm / Sun: 9am – 11am

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Bring on the Birds

‘Bird Photographer of the Year 2024’ at The Oxfordshire Museum



Two of my favourite leisure pleasures are photography and bird watching, so I was delighted when The Oxfordshire Museum launched their 2025 exhibition programme with ‘Bird Photographer of the Year’. What better way to brighten up the relentless grey days this winter than immerse yourself in a colourful feathery wonderland. It is a truly global overview of the avian world, not only the birds themselves but seeing them as viewed by photographers from around the world.

This year included a new category of ‘Comedy Photo’, won by ‘A Modern Dance’, Nadia Haq’s photo of an Adelie penguin tobogganing on ice in the Antarctic. The adjacent ‘Conservation’ category was sombre but with hope provided by illustrations of work being done to care for the unwitting victims of human activity impacting their environment directly, or indirectly (see ‘Postmortem’, Joshua Galicki’s haunting image of a dead Northern Gannet caught in a fishing line, dangling from a rockface while the Gannet Colony carry on life as normal in the background). Another hard-hitting photo was taken in one of Bali’s bird markets. ‘Inmates’, Cheng Kang’s photo shows two Lovebirds, beaks touching but looking at each other from separate solitary cages. Patricia Seaton Homonylo’s ‘When Worlds Collide’ was breathtaking.

From a distance it appears to be colourful concentric circles but close up is revealed to be a montage of the corpses of birds from hawks to humming birds killed by window collisions. The image is of one of the annual Bird Layouts created by the volunteers at FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Programme).

The Young Bird Photographers category was remarkable. I was particularly drawn to Julian Mendla’s winning entries in the 11 and Under category. Both were taken at Lake Federsee, Germany - Gold was awarded for ‘Turbulent Fish Hunt’, featuring a Eurasian Bittern, and Bronze for ‘Flying Gem’ capturing an iridescent torpedoing Kingfisher.

As well as enjoying the photographs, it is interesting reading the photographer’s notes on how they got the image. My jaw dropped reading Ilse Koks’ description of travelling to the Mabamba Bay Swamp in Uganda, an area covering 2,434 hectares of mainly water lilies, wetland grass and papyrus in the hope of seeing the elusive Shoebill. She struck lucky and her beautiful photo was Highly Commended in ‘Birds in the Environment’.

It is impossible to single out a photo, but I kept going back to Pablo Andres Ortega’s ‘Sicklebill’s Yawn’ (Highly Commended in ‘Best Portrait’) and Nicolas Groffal’s Goldfinch in ‘Heavenly Elegant Flight’ was the perfect poster photo.

From sublime to ridiculous. As I walked home, I spotted a pigeon perched with the moon behind and was reminded of William Steel’s ‘Eclipse’ taken in Botswana showing a Grey Heron against a penumbral lunar eclipse and attempted a homage.



NB: This is a touring exhibition if you missed it in Woodstock check other venues at www.birdpoty.com/exhibition

Julia Johnson

Lasting Powers of Attorney - Why Bother?

Let’s talk about something you’re probably ignoring, even though you shouldn’t: an LPA. That’s a Lasting Power of Attorney, and it could save you and your family from a total meltdown.

You might think: “Why should I bother? I’m perfectly capable of handling my own affairs, thanks.” Yes, you are - right now. But what happens when you’re not? What happens when you’re laid up in a hospital bed, out of your mind on painkillers, or, worse, staring blankly out of the window, wondering why the garden gnome is suddenly speaking to you in Portuguese?

You don’t need to be ancient and drooling for an LPA to be important. You could be in the prime of your life, in tip-top shape, and then - bam - a car crash, a stroke, or some other life-altering event hits you. Suddenly, you’re no longer capable of making decisions for yourself - either temporarily or permanently.

This, my friend, is where an LPA comes in. Think of it as a way to keep control over your life when your brain decides to go on an extended holiday.

There are two types of LPAs. The first one covers your finances and property - the important stuff like paying bills and managing your pension. Without this LPA, if you lose capacity, everything freezes.

The second LPA is for health and welfare. This one’s all about your personal well-being. Without it, those decisions will be made by someone you’ve never met; a doctor or, even worse, the courts.

Oh yes, you read that right - if you don’t have an LPA, the court may appoint someone as your deputy. The deputy could be some, albeit well-meaning, overworked official who will decide whether your house should be sold to pay for your care, or if you should be hooked up to a life-sustaining machine for the next decade. Trust me, you don’t want that. They might spend so long dithering that, by the time they’ve made a decision, your savings will have evaporated into a sea of administrative fees, assessments, and who knows what else.

If you’re thinking, “But my family will sort it all out, won’t they?” No, they won’t. Without an LPA, your family has no legal right to make decisions for you and their hands will be tied.

So think of an LPA like insurance - boring to arrange but absolutely vital when things go south. It’s not about losing control. It’s about keeping control and ensuring that, if the worst happens, the people you trust can actually act on your behalf.

So, do yourself a favour. Get an LPA. Then go back to pretending you’re immortal and invincible, knowing that when reality hits, you’re covered.



Anna Boucher, Senior Associate

Anna Boucher is an inheritance tax, wills and probate specialist solicitor at The Burnside Partnership (Combe office). Each month, Anna will share helpful tips on inheritance law, mixing humour with practical advice. If you have any follow-up questions, you can email her at anna.boucher@theburnsidepartnership.com or call the Combe office on 01865 987781 and ask for her secretary, Bev.

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“The team is superbly put together, showing professionalism and personality in equal measure”
Legal 500, 2024

THE LEGAL 500
UNITED KINGDOM
LEADING FIRM
2024

Town Council Reports continued from Page 17

suggesting £4.2 million per year which over a 40 year period makes a significant contribution to the surrounding area. I urged everyone to push for more community benefit as currently this project, in one form or another, seems increasingly likely to happen.

Finally, former Mayor Nick Manby-Brown asked why the recording device, costing £2.5K was not being used to record images, only sound. This would enable residents to join the meetings via Zoom, for example.

The Council then discussed Woodstock allocation of £15K from the £1 million UK Shared Prosperity Allocation given to West Oxfordshire District Council. This fund can be used to support and improve the town centre. Councillor Szabados suggested upgrading the flower planters and showed examples from Bicester. The Mayor suggested refurbishing the Town Hall exterior and relaying the cobbles around the Hall. Councillor Wheatley commented that 6th February deadline for submission of proposals was a very short time (together with the requirement for the funding to be spent by 31 March 2025). Refurbishment and cobble work was voted for, the Mayor saying that flower planters could be looked at using alternative Town Council funding.

Due to restrictions of space not all Council business has been included. For full details please refer to the Town Council website for agendas, documents and minutes.

Graham Brown

11 February 2025

10 councillors and 17 members of the public attended the meeting. The audio of the meeting was recorded.

There was a minute’s silence to acknowledge the passing of Brian Cable, the Mayor of Woodstock Town Council in 1975.

Four members of the public presented during the public participation session. Hilary Brown spoke on behalf of Sustainable Woodstock and said while there are several important local issues for the Council to be discussing, Sustainable Woodstock would like the Council to declare the Climate Emergency and consider it in their business. The Climate Emergency was previously only acknowledged by the Council.

Jo Lamb spoke about the Council’s commitment to the principles of openness and transparency and how this has changed since last May to curtail, limit and control the opportunities of the electorate to communicate its concerns to the Council. Standing Orders were changed to only permit items on the agenda to be raised in public participation. Then the Council decided to suspend the Council meeting so public participation was outside of the agenda. Now it is

being proposed that anyone recording the meeting must cease recording during any period in which the meeting is adjourned, meaning public participation. Where is the openness here? Jo also asked about the civil claim made against the Council last year, with judgment in August and a debt owed by a sitting member of the Council. Request for information has been made on numerous occasions. There is now a second civil claim which surely the public deserves to know the nature of these claims against the Council. Again, lack of transparency.

I then spoke to the Council, thanking the Council for including a section regarding community benefit for Botley West Solar Farm in their representation as an interested party. I had learnt in the Town/Blenheim meeting that there had been a meeting of parishes and councils surrounding the solar farm discussing community benefit. I asked for any records and minutes from the meeting to be made public to co-ordinate the efforts to increase the amount of the community benefit. Karen Howe represented Woodstock Town Council. I was told by the Mayor that this was not possible.

Finally, John Brimble spoke to repeat his previous request for a statement from the Town Council, as previously promised, regarding the civil claim against the Council by one of its members and judgment from August last year. There has only been silence from the Town Council on this matter, the Councillor in question still being in position. And now another civil claim against the Council! The public should know about this second claim.

The Mayor made reference to the number of ducks in town and problems they were causing. No feeding signs were to be encouraged and action is to be considered.

Neither the County Councillor’s or the District Councillors’ reports were included in the agenda pack.

The Planning section included the Council’s lengthy responses to both the Cherwell Local Plan, 450-500 homes development of land south of Perdiswell Farm, Shipton Road and the Botley West Solar Farm, compiled by Karen Howe, the Responsible Finance Officer. The Council has serious concerns regarding the proposed housing development, feeling it is unsustainable and inappropriate for the location. It would create an isolated community with inadequate infrastructure and place unsupportable pressure on local services. Although referred to as part of Woodstock in the Cherwell Local Plan, affordable housing on the site would not be available to residents of West Oxfordshire District Council.

Regarding Botley West Solar Farm, the Council is concerned with the impact such a large solar farm will have on the landscape character of the area, tourism,

local biodiversity, possible flood risk, loss of good quality agricultural land and Green Belt. The Council also notes the £200K per annum figure offered as community benefit is far from the average of £3K per MW (£2.52 million per annum) offered to other solar farms. The fund will need to be shared by around 15 parishes in the area affected by the solar farm.

Full responses to these applications are available on the Council website, found under Documents – Meeting Papers.

Under Finance, the current balance of the Town Council’s account is £433,275.22

Councillors were appointed to various vacancies in working groups such as Grants, Woodstock Exhibition Foundation, VE Day celebrations, the Water Meadows and Christmas Lights.

Agenda items were considered for the Annual Town Meeting, to be held on Tuesday 25th March. The surgery, parking, solar farm, Cherwell planning and flooding will be included.

Councillor Williams gave a report of the Doctors’ Surgery Working Group. From discussions with Roger File from Blenheim, Councillor Connelly said that \$106 monies can be negotiated from the Park View development and that it was possible for a surgery to be built before houses in new developments. Councillor Spencer-Churchill commented that he would like this situation to be sorted within the next 2 months. The Mayor also commented on Blenheim now looking at the Owen Mumford site which will become available when the company moves to Witney.

Finally, it was decided, with some objections, to close the Council’s Facebook page, the Clerk not having the time to support it and the Mayor not wishing for a single Councillor to have that responsibility.

Due to restrictions of space not all Council business has been included. For full details please refer to the Town Council website for agendas, documents and minutes.

Graham Brown

Woodstock Town and Blenheim Palace Dialogue Meeting 11 February 2025

The Town/Blenheim meetings have returned after an absence of several years. The meeting took place in the Town Hall and was well attended by the public. The Town Council was represented by Deputy Mayor Sarah Williams (chair) and Mayor Ann Grant and Blenheim Palace by Roger File (chair), Dominic Hare, Heather Carter and Merilyn Davies.

Several topics were on the agenda and were presented and discussed by the above parties. These included events to be held in Blenheim Palace this year,

housing development schedules, Botley West Solar Farm, flooding issues and the doctors’ surgery. Following these discussions the meeting was opened to questions from the public of which there were understandably many and sadly time ran out to allow all questions to be asked.

The meeting was not recorded but the Mayor was taking minutes which will hopefully be made public in due course.

Graham Brown

Crib at The White House

The residents of the village of Bladon acquired The White House some five years ago having raised sufficient money and established Bladon Community Benefit Society who own the property.

Once the pub was acquired it was important that the villagers were encouraged to use the facilities thus it was decided to start a Crib (or Cribbage to give it the correct title) group. The support was encouraging and The White House joined the Witney and District Crib Association and plays matches most Monday evenings either home or away from September to April against Pubs and Sports and Social Clubs in the area.

But what is Crib? Cribbage, or crib, is a card game, traditionally for two or four players, that involves playing and grouping cards in combinations which gain points. Cribbage has several distinctive features: the cribbage board used for score-keeping; the crib two distinct scoring stages; and a unique scoring system, including points for groups of cards that total 15. The first game's rules can be traced back to 1662!

It has been characterised as 'Britain's national card game' and the only one legally playable in licensed pubs and clubs without requiring local authority permission. The format of the team is three couples who play against opponents in league matches whilst in some competitions a single person plays in single bespoke competitions.

Currently The Bladon Crib group has 14 players registered but is always looking for more people of any age to join us so we can, hopefully enter a second team into the Witney and District league. The group meets on the first and third Sunday’s of the month at The White House from 4pm until 6pm for friendly practice and to teach interested people how the game is played and what enjoyment can be had from playing the game at home for relaxation.

We are always looking for new members so please join us one Sunday and hopefully you will enjoy the experience. If you are interested and would like more details please contact me on 01993 811484.

Robin Jones

The Oxfordshire Museum

Michael Black Exhibition: Chisel, Wood, Stone



Our new exhibition about the life and works of sculptor Michael Black opens on 15 March.

Michael Black, who carved the Emperors' Heads outside the Sheldonian Theatre in Broad Street, lived and worked from Oxford throughout his career. As a talented sculptor he received notable public commissions, exhibited artwork at prestigious galleries, and restored the stonework of churches, colleges and other buildings across Oxford.

15 March - 1 June.
Free Admissions.

Workshops

We have an exciting series of workshops running throughout 2025 which are now available to book online. We have everything from Watercolour Painting with local artist John Somerscales, Yoga, Willow Weaving and Ceramic Workshops.

Spring Wreath Making Workshop

Welcome in Spring by joining us at the Oxfordshire Museum to create your very own door wreath. Oxfordshire florist and tutor, Sandra, will guide you in constructing the design using seasonal foliage, natural decorations, and materials. Make a sustainable wreath that your door will be proud of. Tea and coffee included in the course price as are all floral materials and tuition. Ages 18+.



For a full list of all our events, workshops and activities scan the QR code or visit our what's on webpage: oxfordshire.gov.uk/museumworkshops

WOBL Visit to the Ardley Energy Recovery Facility

10am on Thursday 19 June 2025

The facility began operation in 2014 and is permitted to treat 378,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste each year. It diverts at least 95% of Oxfordshire's residual municipal waste away from landfill and generates enough electricity to power the equivalent of over 80 thousand homes.

Ardley ERF has been built as part of a 25 year contract for residual waste treatment signed with Oxfordshire County Council in March 2011. As well as treating household waste on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, the facility also receives residual waste from businesses and other local authorities helping them to divert their waste away from landfill.

This will be, I am sure, a very interesting and informative visit, which we will write up for those who are unable to come.

There is space for 15 people - it is a walking visit, and there are some restrictions - for example everyone has to wear a boiler suit and steel capped shoes (supplied by ERF).

Please send me your request to come via an Email to editor@wobl.news

Meme of the Month



The Woodstock Society
Meeting
Monday 17th March 2025
David Keen - Shame: Politics and Power as an Emotion



David Keen is a political economist and Professor of Complex Emergencies at the London School of Economics, where he has worked since the 1990s. He was educated at Cambridge and Oxford in economics and anthropology, and was formerly a consultant for NGOs and development agencies, and a journalist

Please join us at 8 pm Monday 17th March 2025 at St Mary Magdalene Church Park Street, Woodstock OX20 1SJ

VISITORS' FEE £8.00
Please see www.woodstockociety.org for further information on membership and this season's programme

St Hugh's Centre Lecture Series – The 4th
Tuesday, 1st April – 2025
Speaker Dr Chris Whelan

"He is a resident of Wootton for 35 year and of Woodstock for over 10, He is an academic and practicing lawyer in both the UK and US. In the UK, he ran International Law Programmes for the University of Oxford where he was a Faculty of Law Member and is a barrister at 3PB. In the US, he has taught at several law schools."

LAWYERS ON TRIAL: HIRED GUNS OR HEROES?



Lawyers are universally unpopular but is this justified?
Aren't they necessary for justice?
What should a lawyer do when faced with tragic choices?
If the lawyer's role was better understood, wouldn't that help their image?

THE JUDGEMENT IS YOURS!

Where? St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JH
When? 19:15 for 19.30pm
Tickets: £10 (including refreshments – Wine, Canapés)
Contact: Sandra for tickets & further information. M: 07771845382

All proceeds towards
St Hugh's Centre

Artists Studio Space Available

The Iron Down Sculpture Studio near Deddington has space for more sculptors and artists.

Whether you are a beginner or a professional come and create your own work here in the company of other like minded artists at:



**Iron Down Farm
Deddington
Oxon OX15 0PJ**

Contact:
Wendy: 07747 376400 wendyedmundson@hotmail.com
Louise: 07709913512 oxfordartdesign@btconnect.com



Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum

Monthly Talks coming up at The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock at 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th March
Cemeteries of Oxford - More than a Century of History
Speaker: Trevor Jackson, former Registrar and Manager of Oxford City Cemeteries

This fascinating talk covers the history of Oxford Cemeteries, how they came about and where they were located. Why did they fill up so quickly? What issues govern the use of cemeteries? Many famous people are buried in Oxford and our speaker will treat us to a few anecdotes.

Wednesday 2nd April
Michael Black: Chisel, Wood, Stone: The Work and Life of Sculptor Michael Black
Speaker: Tiffany Black

Michael carved the third series of Emperors Heads around the Sheldonian theatre in Oxford in the 1970's. In addition to this major commission, he carved many other works for Oxford University, for the City of London and for gallery exhibition. This talk will complement the exhibition of the same title that opens in the Oxfordshire Museum in March and will expand on the different approaches Michael undertook in his work and the creative nature of the life he led.

Membership of The Friends 2025-2026
Our new Membership year starts in April together with another stimulating programme of monthly talks organised by the Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum. Membership gives you free access all our talks which take place in the Museum in Woodstock but are also available on ZOOM. Non-members are very welcome at these events for a fee of £5 payable on the evening.

Woodstock and Bladon Churches together

One of my great joys in moving to Woodstock is discovering the close relationship which exists between the various churches of Woodstock and Bladon. Ecumenism is a form of reconciliation where different denominations of churches work together and share what unites them, and the ecumenical movement has existed for more than 100 years. There are a number of well-known ecumenical communities such as Taizé in France, Corrymeela in Northern Ireland and Iona (an island off the Scottish west coast) and these all attract pilgrims and visitors to pray together and to work for peace and social justice in a Christian context. The Churches Together in England (CTE)

movement unites Christians from a broad spectrum of churches, and its mission is all about sharing the love of God in our local communities.

Here in Woodstock and Bladon, the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Baptist and Methodist churches meet regularly for shared events and worship. The ministers also have monthly meetings to pray together and to plan how we can best meet the needs of our local community. We had an uplifting service at the Baptist Church to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the middle of January. As we approach the beginning of Lent in early March, we plan to run a shared weekly Lent course which will reflect on the nature of friendship and how this is revealed to us in the Bible. The course will run for five weeks, with the same session held at various times of day in different church locations (see flyer). All are most welcome to attend any of the groups, and we hope this will provide the opportunity to forge new and stronger friendships between individuals and within Woodstock and Bladon Churches Together.

Revd Sarah Bourne, Rector of Woodstock and Bladon

World Day of Prayer 2025

7pm on Friday 7 March 2025 - Church's Together Ecumenical Service - Woodstock Methodist Church

Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for this year's World Day of Prayer. The Cook Islands are a tiny nation, made up of 15 Islands located in the South Pacific Ocean. Their total size is around two-thirds that of the Isle of Wight. They have a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature - as seen in the painting to the right especially created for this service. However, there are challenges being severely vulnerable to climate change and the devaluing of their culture.

The Cook Island women have chosen the words of Psalm 139 "I made you wonderful" as their theme. Through their words and stories, they invite us to recognise that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. We should celebrate this and cherish all aspects of who we are and of those around us.

As we take part in this service, we will be joining in the great wave of prayer which encircles the globe, praying with, and for the Cook Island and its people. This wave starts as the sun rises over Western Samoa and Tonga and ends some 36 hours later back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. Our service is at 7pm on the 7th March, at Woodstock Methodist Church. All are welcome - all ages and genders! If you would like any more information, please contact Debbie Teanby on 01993 812325 / 07882 447214 or email doranteanby@btinternet.com.

Brian Cable, 1933 to 2025



Brian Cable was a member of Woodstock Borough Council from 1970 to 1974 and of the successor Town Council from 1974 to 1986. He was the Town Mayor in 1975 when his expertise as an architect was of great value to Woodstock.

Evacuated to his Aunt's household in Kidlington in World War II he remained there for some years and as a teenager would ride his self made bicycle from there to Stanmore.

When Brian had trained as an architect at Brooke's University, he moved to Woodstock for the rest of his long life. He worked at various times for the Oxford Architectural Partnership, the Peabody Trust and others before setting up an independent practice here. There are numerous houses in and around Woodstock where he has designed alterations and extensions. The octagonal kitchen at Prof. Martin Kemp's house in Harrison's Lane has rightly been called a masterpiece.

Brian was a founding member of Woodstock Music Society, a member of Woodstock Probus and a regular helper at the Carnival and at the Mock Mayor Making.

He founded Woodstock Cruising Club whose activities varied from the Norfolk Broads to sailing from the West Country to the Channel Islands. Brian was their navigator. As a non-swimmer he needed to keep the yacht on a safe course.

Other interests included family history in which he identified Vince Cable as a distant cousin. Walking on Exmoor led to the restoration of a derelict cottage there. The centre of Brian's world was The Black Prince where he joined his friends nightly.

Jill cared for Brian heroically, using her valuable nursing experience, during his long decline until the additional resources of Spencer Court became necessary.

Robert Edwards

Panniers

Everyday cycling in Woodstock and Bladon

Plans to improve cycling and walking in Woodstock and Bladon have just taken a big step forward.



In the past few weeks, the online consultation for the LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) for Woodstock and the surrounding area has gone live. The draft report suggests a long list of improvements that should make everyday cycling around our communities safer and more enjoyable.

The aim is that by 2035 we will have convenient and well-connected networks for cycling, walking and wheeling (prams, strollers, wheelchairs, mobility scooters etc) that can be used by people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Those of us who already use a bike to commute or to access local shops and schools are aware that any network is only as good as its weakest point. A journey that includes a stressful section of road or a hazardous crossing may be enough to stop many trying it more than once.

Everyone benefits if more people swap their car for a bike for short journeys. Cycling is better for our health, our social cohesion as a community, the environment, and it frees up car parking spaces for those who really need them.

The consultation can be found on Oxfordshire County Council's website. Make sure you have your say!

David Walker is a member of Sustainable Woodstock, the Village Travel Network and is a qualified Bikeability instructor

A bit of Retail History

The Topsy Palace has been undergoing some renovations recently (more on this next issue), and some historic shop signs have been uncovered.



If you have any information about the previous occupants, Jonathan or Josh at The Topsy Palace would be pleased to hear from you.

Wootton Village Hall Talks

Our speaker at 7.30pm on Friday 14 March is **John Lloyd**

John is one of the country's great comedy producers and writers, with his television work including Not The Nine O'Clock News, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Spitting Image, Blackadder and QI.

At the start of his legendary career, John worked as a radio producer at the BBC, creating The News Quiz, The News Huddlines and Quote....Unquote (with Nigel Rees). He co-wrote the fifth and sixth episodes of the first radio series of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy with Douglas Adams (who wrote all the previous and subsequent episodes solo, as well as the television adaptation).

John then moved into television as a comedy producer at both the BBC and ITV. As well as being associate producer of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, he created Not the Nine O'Clock News (co-produced with Sean Hardie) and produced Spitting Image - as well as all four series of the peerless Blackadder.

The first series of QI, which John created with Stephen Fry in the chair, began in September 2003, with Sandi Toksvig taking over in 2016 - and the shows are still pulling in huge audiences. Back on Radio 4, John has presented several series of The Museum of Curiosity, which he co-created with producers Richard Turner and Dan Schreiber and former co-host Bill Bailey.

John's book '1,411 Quite Interesting Facts to Knock You Sideways' (one of a series of QI books) is a collaboration with John Mitchinson, who lives in Great Tew, and James Harkin, and contains gems such as: orchids can get jet-lag; lizards can't walk and breathe at the same time; there are 177,147 ways to tie a tie; traffic lights existed before cars; Sir Bruce Forsyth was four months older than sliced bread; and the soil in your garden is 2 million years old.

Entry is £10 in cash - and includes free food. Wine and soft drinks are available for a modest donation.

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Oxfordshire & Home Counties

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Firstly a little introduction from myself, Some of you may have met me already and seen me around the town. I'm PC Charlie Dent, the Neighbourhood Police Officer for Woodstock and the surrounding villages, I manage PCSO Helen Duffield who most of you are familiar with. We are based in the Woodstock Neighbourhood Police Office which is located within the Fire Station on Hensington Road.

If you see myself or Helen out and about the town, please do stop and speak with us and raise any concerns or issues you may have identified in the local area; we will be looking to complete 'Have Your Say' events in the town centre throughout the year and this also is a good opportunity to speak with us and let us know your direct concerns so we can look to adjust our approach and direct it at the named issues.

From the Neighbourhood Team in Woodstock we would also like to make you aware and help safeguard you all with ongoing issues we are experiencing across West Oxfordshire; which is an increase in Thefts Of Motor Vehicles and Theft From Motor Vehicles. The criminals are often using signal transferring devices which allows cars which have keyless entry and start enabled on them. To try and prevent this, we are recommending those of you with keyless entry vehicles to invest in Signal Blocking pouches or boxes; and to leave the keys in them when you are out and about, and also when at your home address. These prevent signal being transferred out; for further peace of mind, consider purchasing video doorbells or cameras that cover the front/rear of your property.

We are trying to obtain some of these signal blocking pouches and will hopefully be able to hand them you all at some of our 'Have Your Say' events.

Lastly if you are not aware, please consider signing up to Neighbourhood Alerts for your area, this will allow you to receive emails that are relevant to your area, including 'Have Your Say' events, and Crime Prevention Advice for relevant topics.

PC Charlie Dent

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/Rejuvenate.Aesthetics.UK

Wake Up To Woodstock

Supporting local businesses and our community

Wake Up to Woodstock (WUTW) is dedicated to strengthening our town's business community by creating connections and promoting Woodstock as a thriving place to visit.

Through partnerships with Experience Oxfordshire, Cotswold Tours, OXLEP, and Blenheim Palace, we help showcase the town's boutique shops, award-winning hotels, restaurants, and cultural landmarks.

Our business social and networking mixer events provide valuable opportunities for local entrepreneurs and businesses to meet, collaborate and grow, supported by a social media presence that highlights our members.

We're proud to play a role in Woodstock's cherished events, including the Woodstock Festive Fayre, A Night of a Thousand Candles, and other local favourites, Woodstock Live and Salon Privé. Beyond attracting visitors, these events enhance community spirit and connection which is important for us all.

As we continue to grow, Wake Up to Woodstock remains committed to supporting businesses, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring Woodstock is a great place to live, visit, and work.

If you're a business within the OX20 postcode, and you'd like to become a part of our growing community, drop Vicki and the team a line at info@wutw.co.uk or visit www.wutw.co.uk for more information.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Woodstock Harriers

A year of growth

Club membership grew significantly as those who joined our Couch 2 5k sessions last year continue with their running. Our Tuesday evening 'Effort' sessions, led by coach Roger Bradley, are also very popular with growing numbers enjoying a great workout. The Harriers caters for a wide range of abilities, from those who are literally beginners, through to county champions. Members also have a wide range of interests and reasons to run, some like to keep fit in a very sociable group, others like racing over the traditional 5k, 10k etc distances, and we have a growing group who like to take an ultra or adventure challenge. What everyone has in common is the enjoyment of running in an inclusive, friendly, and encouraging environment.

If there is demand, we will start another Beginners Group in May, based on a Couch 2 5K programme. If

you can walk a mile and run/jog for 50 metres, then you can start following a Couch 2 5k. Here is what some of last year's group said about the Group:

"I have absolutely loved being part of the group - Neil & Susan are such supportive and motivational coaches. The group have all made amazing progress together, as well as becoming firm friends."

"The club is so friendly at all levels, and I love that there's lots to aspire to whilst feeling comfortable to join in as I work on my fitness. The club caters for all levels and are a very social bunch. There's so much support and options to join as much or as little as you want, which is great around fluctuating commitments."

"...beginners' group has given me such a boost in confidence in my ability to run. I have never valued myself as a 'runner' neither did I think I was any good at it, but since finding the group I have learnt to really enjoy working as a team and can see how brilliantly the effort is paying off."

Find out more on:

<https://www.woodstockharriers.co.uk/>,
www.facebook.com/woodstockharriers/
www.instagram.com/woodstockharriers/
or drop us a note at woodstockharriers@gmail.com

Woodstock & District u3a

At the Woodstock & District u3a December meeting our speaker was Gloria Camino, who spoke of the history, culture, significance, and beauty of Machu Picchu. Her talk was illustrated by many slides, a number of her own but also historic images from 1911, as well as others. Our January meeting will see Yanto Evans tell us of his experience as he served with the Parachute Regiment and now heads up the Oxfordshire Poppy Appeal.

Our speaker meetings take place at St Hugh's Woodstock on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm with our February meeting still following a military tack as William French talks about his life as a butler to royalty and the stars. As a young gunner serving in the Falklands war William French could hardly have dreamed that he would end up on the Royal Yacht Britannia working for the late Queen and her family - an excellent speaker - do save the date: Thursday 6 February; visitor fee £2

Of course it's not just talks - we have many active groups, from Art, through Board Games and Photography, to Walking - full information can be found on the website <https://woodstock.u3asite.uk>. A new innovation is our blogs, which give a better idea of our activities; we look forward to welcoming you into our association.

Sue Blackshaw, Chair, Woodstock & District u3a

Richard’s Last Stand

The Woodstock Arms was packed on the evening of Thursday 23 January. Fully booked! Some of us came early for their delicious homemade burgers, shawarmas and nicely affordable bar snacks.



Richard Stockwell, our local Long Hanborough dentist, has been the Woodstock quiz master for many years, mainly at The Star, but sadly, he is throwing in the towel so to speak, and this quiz was billed as his last.

The cleverly curated questions were all on the theme of last year, ‘2024’.

We were required to answer questions in the music round on the many pop musicians who died last year. Similarly in the picture round, we were asked to remember those celebrities who were ‘gone, but not forgotten’. Despite remembering the many who had died last year, it was a very enjoyable and accessible general knowledge quiz compared to others in Woodstock I have been to which have tended to include slightly more demanding questions on specific topics such as Sport, Geography. History or Art. A really fun and relaxed evening was had by all.

11 Teams competed for two prizes worth having: 1st prize was a voucher for £200 to use at the Woodstock Arms, and 2nd prize was a Jereboham of Rioja reserva...and would you believe it, my team, hastily cobbled together with a friend of mine, and called ‘The Wonders of Woodstock’ came second after a nail-biting tie break, competing against a team enigmatically called ‘RASK’ (made from the team mates’ name’s initials) in which we were required to guess how many rib eye steaks were sold in a year! I think we very wrongly guessed 2,450, but were slightly nearer to the correct answer which was surprisingly only 390. We had both come joint second with 40 points each.

The Back Lane Tavern team, came an honourable third place with 39 points. Other teams included Rachel Peters and her family; one cleverly called 'The McOddy’s' (cobbling together the McShanes and the Oddys); a rather rowdy one called ‘Marcus’ who came in with 36 points; one called ‘One and Four’ because the two couples lived at numbers 1 and 4 Meadow Walk; and one simply called ‘The Spanners’. My favourite name for a team was one called ‘Where is Sylvia?’, ‘because she was supposed to turn up but didn’t’! Half the fun of a quiz it seems to me is making up a name for your team. I apologise for not finding out the name of the eleventh team.



The winning team "Quiz Abomination"

The winning team, more importantly, were called ‘Quiz Abomination’. "It was great to be here for Richard’s last quiz" said Alex. His team mate, Dom, who had been coming to Richard’s quizzes for the last four years said rather poignantly "As a really bad era begins, a really good era ends". They had been joined by friends Julian, Danni, Sally and Anya. They had streaked into the lead by a distance of 13 points, and won with a grand total of 53 points!! Well done to them.

Anyway, we were all grateful, I’m sure, to Richard and The Woodstock Arms for organising such a fun evening.

Siân Godwin

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KBDR Chartered Accountants Celebrate 20 years in Woodstock

Way back in 2005 Brian Kay chose Woodstock to set up an accountancy practice. The Marlborough Arms settee in front of the fire with a bottle of Claret (utilised with every meeting!) was an inviting scenario.

Brian was joined by Lorraine Butler and Stuart Drummond. All three were fresh from helping expand a Thames Valley firm of Accountants from one office to five.

The past 20 years have been a delight, working from our Woodstock office at the Old Tannery.

We have acted for every type of entity and business and most importantly enjoyed the relationships with our clients. Our client base over the years has included Oxford colleges, World Champion sportsmen, champion jockeys, well-known trainers, a professional footballer and a former Chancellor of the Exchequer!

George Kay in the last couple of years has qualified as a Chartered Accountant with the firm and has joined our board as a director.

We chose Woodstock as we are all local to the office and find Woodstock itself a pleasure to work in. There are plenty of good eating establishments and we have been proud to support most of them over the years!

Brian also set up Paul Kay Hair Salon with Paul which has now been trading very successfully in Woodstock for 24 years.

We are pleased, too, to be able to support Nick Manby-Brown in his new venture with ‘Woodstock and Bladon News’. He is producing a quality magazine in all respects, which is a very good read every month.

Brian Kay

George receiving certificate from the Vice President of ICAEW, at 1 Moorgate Place

Wootton Talks: Crispian Steele-Perkins

Readers of this magazine will be very aware of the wonderful monthly talks that take place in the Wootton Village Hall. But on Friday 17 January, this event took place at St Mary's, for better accoustics, and it was just as well to have a large venue, because a full house came to listen to Crispian give a hugely entertaining talk.

He told us of the history of the trumpet from the Egyptian era to modern times, and he demonstrated the different sounds that can be produced from his huge collection of trumpets - some over 200 years old. With supreme wit and energy, he played Handel and other composers on his range of trumpets; and he then showed us his huge skill by playing a hose-pipe (fitted with a mouthpiece). He told us of his history of playing music in numerous films, and even his composing of the title music of 'Antiques Roadshow'. Crispian also played Burt Bacharach's lovely tune, 'Alfie', accompanied on keyboards by Susanna Spicer, a classical singer, who also played with him on his other demonstrations.

With many thanks to both Crispian and Susanna, and Andy Morgan and his team of organisers of the talks.

Nick Manby-Brown

30

31

Botley West

I have registered with the planning inspectorate to have a say on the 'Botley West Solar' proposal and have made the following comments - I am happy for you to reproduce this in the next Woodstock and Bladon News edition to encourage more to object in this way:

Dear Sirs,

I object most strenuously to this proposal which, through the heinous and liberal use of greenwashing, would trash our environment (already the most depleted natural environment in Europe) purportedly to save it. Our decreasing natural environment belongs to all of us, not a handful of avaricious and greedy individuals who simply wish to take advantage of ill thought out politically expedient and dangerous policies.

I object to this for the following key reasons:

1. The sheer scale of this proposal is testament to the fact that this is no altruistic exercise by the landowners but a money grab which would benefit a handful of individuals, mainly senior directors and beneficiaries of Blenheim. The millions of ordinary residents and visitors to what was once a green and pleasant land would be faced with a vast industrialised Oxfordshire landscape bereft of any nature.
2. Tenant farmers have already been evicted by the Blenheim landowners in anticipation of the green light to this industrialisation of vast swathes of the countryside - farming land is being given over to the unnecessary industrialisation of valuable and needed farm land: we cannot concrete our farms in order to import our food: food security is paramount, let alone the lunacy of the environmental footprint of importing food from abroad.
3. The environmental impact of manufacturing, transporting (from China) and eventually disposing of this type of solar panel equipment is hugely destructive - it is environmentally absurd and unsound.
4. New solar panel technology is advancing rapidly - the type of solar panel proposed here, in their millions, is already obsolete: ultra thin (2 - 3 mm) solar panels are already in development and will have the capacity to be practically invisible and cover roofs and windows with minimal visual or environmental impact. This technology is already proven and in development.
5. There would be no impact on consumer energy prices should this power plant be built - electricity is sold to the grid and will have no impact on prices.
6. It has been shown scientifically that bats cannot fly over solar covered fields - the consequences of

this are severe from an ecological standpoint; it is also noteworthy that individuals are prohibited from obtaining planning permission of any homes or extensions that have any impact on bats: this would be a glaring 'them and us' situation where one rule applies to 'them' and one to 'us'.

7. The glare from such enormous swathes of glass would interfere with flights to and from Oxford airport, and interfere with our views and mental health.

8. It has been shown repeatedly that we, as human beings, need the natural world around us and it is imperative for our health and mental well being - this county in particular, appears to have been earmarked for concretisation: housing, college scientific parks, reservoirs, football stadiums, electricity pylons, wind 'farms', and now what is left of any green grass appears to be targeted with insidious solar 'farms' (ie power stations) which would unacceptably deplete what is left of our natural habitat and that of all the wildlife that would be exterminated.

9. Even if solar was the way forward (which is extremely debatable in this country), then solar panels can be placed on millions of acres of industrial, office and retail roof spaces: warehouses, office buildings, petrol stations, industrial and scientific parks etc would all benefit first for their own use and sell the surplus to the grid, all leased by the government's 'GB Energy'. This model has already been started by eg Plymouth Council with solar panels on petrol stations. It is a 'no brainer' solution to the solar panel question without the industrialisation of our countryside with the permanent and catastrophic effects that would have - it would be criminally irresponsible of the government to trash what is left of our depleted natural world when an obvious solution is glaringly in front of them, and has been suggested to them.

For the above and other reasons, it is imperative for this proposal to be stopped in its entirety and a rethink along the lines mentioned above be done before our beautiful countryside is irreversibly and unnecessarily damaged beyond repair, all for the avaricious benefit of one landowner and politically irresponsible politicians who will long be out of office when such damage is done.

Thank you.

Themis Avraamides



"Why on earth should anyone care about what is going on within Woodstock Town Council?"

After all, surely it is so much easier to let 'them' just get on with it, leaving the rest of 'us' to get on with our lives undisturbed by local politics.

But should it be like this; with the division of the 'them' and 'us'?

Local government has always encouraged a level of participation by its electors by allowing a section within Council meetings for members of the public to express any concerns they may have to Councillors at that meeting. This public participation is an essential component of democracy, being the means of communication between a Council and the public it is meant to represent.

Another benefit of public participation is that it aids the transparency and openness which all local councils, Woodstock included, both profess to follow and aim to foster.

Since Woodstock's new representatives took office in May 2024, the Standing Orders governing Council procedure have been altered stage by stage, the end result being a virtual airbrushing of the significance of public participation.

We now have a new 'Protocol' for public participation, which was quietly voted through by a mere 6 Councillors during an ETC (Extraordinary Town Council) meeting, last November.

The current position in Woodstock is that the public participation session is only permitted once the Mayor has suspended the Council meeting. The public's session is now considered as extraneous to the meeting itself. Therefore, the Minutes of the Council meeting no longer contain any detail of what concerns are expressed by the public, nor do they name the speaker; and hence the airbrushing to which I refer.

Councillors are now being muffled too. They are no longer allowed to seek any clarification from the speaker on a concern raised by him/her in public participation.

Added to these limitations, Woodstock's town council meetings are not filmed nor recorded on line, to enable both easier accessibility to its meetings by the public, as well as the transparency and accountability of Council to its local community. The facilities already exist within the Town Council to enable these modern communication methods. There is an 'Owl' device, perched in the centre of the Councillors during meetings, which was purchased by the previous Administration precisely to enable such recording and filming. Sadly, the Owl has been both gagged and blindfolded over recent months.

Contrast Woodstock Town Council (WTC), with West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC).

WODC allows a full 30 minutes for its public sessions (ie, double the amount of time allowed by Woodstock). Each WODC speaker is given a maximum of 5 minutes in which to speak (cf 3 minutes in Woodstock). WODC's participation sessions also take place within its meetings. They are not suspended. WODC meetings are also filmed, recorded and made openly available for all to see. WODC Councillors are allowed to seek clarification of any matter raised by a speaker during public participation. Public submissions are fully minuted in WODC Minutes. All this is considered "best practice" for local parishes to follow. Most (if not all), do. Woodstock falls short. It does not adhere to best practice as so defined. Why not?

Woodstock needs to facilitate true transparency, accessibility and accountability to its electorate. It cannot continue to exclude its voters from raising concerns within Council meetings. What does it have to fear by its imposition of these controls? Surely there can be no justification for this within modern democracy.

I very much hope that our 3 newly elected town councillors are able to make a difference to the future workings of our Town Council. I fear they may have a long and uphill battle. Let's hope they have the requisite stamina!

Jo Lamb

Bladon and Woodstock Flower Club

After ending 2024 on a high with our Christmas demonstration at Exeter Hall, we start the new year off with our first meeting on 10 February, when we have Carol Gardiner, a National Demonstrator, with her title 'Winters Palette'. Thinking of all the types of elements and what plants have gone through over the past weeks it could be a very interesting demonstration.

Our second meeting of the year is on 10 March when it is our AGM. After the AGM we will break for coffee and then welcome National Speaker Simone Squire with her title 'More than a slab of chocolate'. March is the month when subscriptions are due which will be £42 for the year and visitors £8. We have a very varied and wonderful programme for the year thanks to our Programme Secretary with demonstrations, workshops and an outing. If you are interested in joining us, you would be very welcome. We meet on the second Monday of the month and our meetings start at 7pm with doors open at 6.30pm in the Bowls and Tennis Clubhouse, Cadogan Park, Woodstock. My contact number is 01865 376587.

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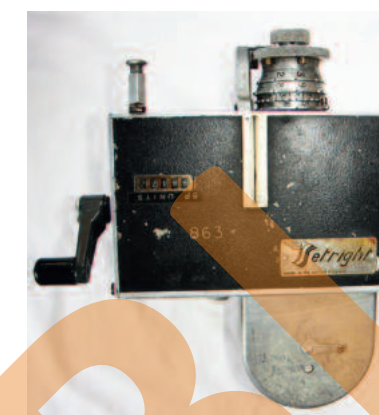
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Oxford Bus and Morris Motors Museum

Early ticket machines

On Mother's Day, Sunday 30 March, we shall be giving free entry to the museums and a free cream tea to mothers who visit the museum with their under 16 children. There will be heritage bus rides at 12.15 and 2.15pm.



when electronic machines made them redundant. So what was before the Setright?



each fare. Early tickets had the names of the fare stages printed along the edge and the conductor would punch a hole in the ticket to indicate where the passenger boarded the bus. Hence conductors became known as 'Clippies'. Later the stage names were replaced by numbers, so the tickets could be used any route.

When an inspector got on the bus, he could inspect each passenger's ticket and, knowing the fare paid and the stage boarded, could check that the passenger had not travelled too far.

If the company suspected that a Clippie was not accounting for all the fares, it could unlock the Bell Punch machine, and empty the little coloured punches, separate them by colour, count them and thus establish what the total fares should have been.

Bell Punch machines were widely used for fifty years, and I can remember them still in use in the early 1950s.

Frank Collingwood

A conductor will issue an old mechanical 'Setright' bus ticket to all visitors, who have a ride on one of our buses. The Oxford Bus Company bought 215 Setright machines between 1953 and 1956 and another 164 in 1961. They were in use until the 1970s

From about 1890, conductors would carry a rack of coloured pre-printed tickets and a Bell Punch machine. The tickets would be numbered and bear the fare information. A different coloured ticket would be used for

'I call you friends'

reflections on friendship



Churches Together in Woodstock & Bladon Lent Studies 2025

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Monday 10th March - Woodstock Baptist Church - 7.30pm

OR

Tuesday 11th March - St. Mary Magdalene, Woodstock - 2pm

OR

Thursday 13th March - Woodstock Methodist Church - 11am

email: andy.mills.wbc@gmail.com for further details

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Bladon Gardens Society

Guest Speaker Event
The Church Rooms, Church Street, Bladon

20th March 2025 7.30 pm

Avril Hughes

"Planting for Shade"

£2.00 entry for non members

Doors open at 7.00pm for Tea and Coffee

Parking is difficult in Church Street and we must leave space for the Speaker. The school has given permission to park in the playground for meetings.
Access to this is from Grove Road.
Bladon Gardens Society Membership details
Annual Subscription: £12. Visitors to monthly meetings £2

Woodstock CE Primary School

Curriculum Launch Days

The children have had an exciting start to the Spring Term with an Egyptian Day in Years 3 &4, a visit to the Rainforest in Newbury for Years 5&6 children to support their work on South America and the Amazon, and Key Stage 1 have been exploring our local area linked to their learning in Geography. We are always keen to link the children’s learning to enriching, real-life experiences to bring learning to life - always creating long-lasting memories of school too. Please visit our gallery of photographs by visiting our school website www.woodstock.oxon.sch.uk.

Leading the Way in Sustainability

Woodstock CE Primary School is embracing sustainability with two exciting projects aimed at protecting the environment and enhancing pupils’ learning.

420 Saplings Planted

Thanks to the Woodland Trust, our school has received 420 saplings, which pupils, staff, and volunteers have planted on the school grounds. This project enhances biodiversity and helps fight climate change. Headteacher Mrs Anne Hipwell said, “This tree-planting initiative allows pupils to connect with nature and take an active role in protecting the environment, while fostering a lifelong love for the outdoors.” The project is integrated into lessons across science, geography, and art, making it an educational experience for all.

Solar Panels Powering the Future

The school has secured over £69,000 from Oxfordshire County Council to install 191 solar panels on the roof. This project will generate a significant portion of the school’s electricity, reducing energy costs and carbon emissions. Mrs Hipwell added, “The solar panels will not only cut our energy bills but also provide a real-world learning resource for pupils, teaching them about renewable energy and sustainability.”

The panels will reduce reliance on non-renewable energy, aligning with our aim to offer a well-rounded education focused on academic and environmental responsibility.

A Greener Future

These projects highlight Woodstock CE Primary School’s commitment to sustainability. By planting trees and using renewable energy, we’re equipping our pupils to become environmentally conscious citizens. We’re proud of these initiatives and the positive impact they have on our school and community. Together, we’re making a big difference.

Anna Poole

The Marlborough C of E School

The Marlborough School Sixth Form Open Evening

We were delighted to welcome over four hundred students and their parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 23 January.

The evening started with a warm welcome from Mr. Hanlon, Principal, and Ms. Jones, Head of Sixth Form. Polly and Ben, two current Sixth Form students spoke passionately about their time at Marlborough and afterwards, prospective students and parents were able to visit all subject departments and talk to A Level Teachers during the evening.

In the Sixth Form Centre there was an opportunity to talk to current students about life as a Sixth Former, find out about the extensive extra-curricular activities on offer, whilst Ms Jones, Mr Gavin, and Pastoral Support Assistant Ms Fry were available to answer any questions. There was also a chance to see some of our current Sixth Formers course work on display in the Art and Design Technology areas, and to see performances in Music and Drama.

The students themselves, from the Sixth Form guides, the groups who helped pick up litter, to the subject ambassadors were amazing. They are a credit to our school and it was a really affirming experience.

Sarah Fitchett

WOODSTOCK NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

1975 - 2025

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2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30 to 9 pm

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14 th Jan.	Member's photo evening	
11 th Feb.	Pete Barker	Cape to Kruger, Penguins to Elephants, and much in between
11 th Mar.	Duncan Murdock	Uncovering Oxfordshire's Dinosaur Highway
8 th Apr.	Lorenzo Fornasari	Birds of Italy: European insights and Milan's avian wonders
13 th May	Sue Burge	Medicinal plants and magic
Summer break (June – Aug)		
9 th Sep.	Christopher Hoskin	Orchids in our area and their germination
14 th Oct.	Tim Birkhead	The Great Auk: It's extraordinary life, hideous death, and mysterious afterlife
11 th Nov.	Adrian Delnevo	Wildlife conservation in Arctic Greenland
9 th Dec.	Members Christmas Social	

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Building Regs and Home Extensions - Part 1

In my last article, I discussed the issues around Permitted Development and Planning. So you now have obtained either Planning Permission or a Certificate of Lawful Development confirming that what do you want to build is Permitted Development. The next stage concerns the Building Regulations, which is to do with the safety of the building.

If you are personally managing the job, you are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Building Regulations. If you employ a builder, responsibility for compliance typically falls to them, and you should confirm this arrangement at the outset. As the building owner, you may still be held accountable if the work violates regulations, regardless of who carries out the work. Failure to do so can have legal consequences.

If your work is categorised as "building work" under Regulation 3 of the Building Regulations, compliance is mandatory. Building Regulations generally applies to projects such as the erection or extension of a building, the installation or extension of a service or fitting which is controlled under the regulations such as washing facilities, hot water systems and drainage systems, the insertion of cavity wall insulation, the underpinning of the foundations of a building, and work affecting the thermal elements, energy status or energy performance of a building such as replacement windows or fuel-burning appliances. Building Regulations also applies to an alteration project involving work that will temporarily or permanently affect the ongoing compliance of the building, service or fitting with the requirements relating to structure, fire, or access to and use of buildings. The work must meet the requirements of the Building Regulations and must not compromise the safety, functionality, or compliance of existing structures, services, or fittings. For example, replacing windows must not negatively impact escape routes, ventilation, or air supply for combustion appliances. Building Regulations may also apply to changes in the use of an existing building. A change of use may result in the building no longer meeting requirements for its new purpose. In such cases, upgrades to the building and additional work might be necessary to ensure compliance.

Part L of the Building Regulations focuses on energy efficiency and applies to buildings or extensions that use energy to condition their indoor climate. This includes structures with walls and roofs designed to maintain internal environmental conditions. However, certain buildings are exempt from Part L requirements, such as Listed buildings or those in Conservation Areas, where energy efficiency modifications would alter the building's character or

appearance. Part L does not apply to temporary buildings with a planned use of two years or less and low energy demand, workshops, and agricultural buildings with low energy demand, and standalone buildings other than dwellings with a total floor area of less than 50m² such as garden buildings. Certain small extensions, such as conservatories, porches, covered yards, covered ways, or carports open on at least two sides are exempt if they are less than 30m² in floor area. Conservatories or porches with glazing must comply with the safety requirements of Part N.

Building Regulations Approval confirms that your project meets legal and safety standards, and insurance providers typically require compliance with Building Regulations. Non-compliance with Building Regulations may void your insurance coverage. Once the work is finished, ensure you obtain a Completion Certificate that confirms compliance. This document may be requested by your insurer.

It is important to verify your responsibilities under the Building Regulations, as non compliance can result in enforcement actions and costly modifications. See the contact details in my accompanying advertisement if would like further guidance.

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Woodstock Probus Club

We started the year with a very interesting talk by Roy Noble, one of our members, on The Jet Engine and its Development. This covered the early days of government sponsorship of a number of companies including De Havilland that Roy had worked with, and the engineering progress made that is behind the Rolls Royce engines of today. Just as Christmas was receding we had another round of celebrations at The Holt for our post-Christmas Lunch. This was well supported and enjoyed by all. Entertainment provided by two magicians who amazed us all. How do they do it?

At our February monthly meeting, we heard from The Rector, Reverend Sarah Bourne, on her Journey to Woodstock. This was special and hearing of her own upbringing in several Cathedrals, posts in Shipston on Stour and Banbury; all leading to us here in Woodstock. Now that she is almost fully mobile following a broken ankle before Christmas she is looking forward to circulate more freely round the Town.

Our next outing is to our own Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum for the guided tour which will take in the new exhibit of drawings by E H Shepard of Winnie the Pooh fame.

Michael Bowles, Past President

Woodstock Lunch Club

A Festive Start to the Year for Woodstock Lunch Club

As tradition holds, Woodstock Lunch Club celebrates Christmas a little later than most, with our annual Christmas lunch taking place in January. This year's gathering was a wonderful success, bringing together friends, familiar faces, and special guests for a joyful afternoon.

We were honoured to welcome our Town Mayor, Anne Grant, along with Mock Mayor, Nick Tonks, and representatives from our local churches. Their presence added to the warm and festive atmosphere as we shared a delicious meal together.



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A special thank you goes out to The Mock Mayor team, whose generous donation made this special event possible. Their support truly helped bring our community closer and ensured that the day was filled with cheer.

Entertainment was provided by The Woodentops, a talented three-piece group who delighted us with lively performances on the banjo, ukulele, and double bass. Their music had everyone tapping their toes and added an extra layer of joy to the festivities.

We also took a moment to bid farewell to two of our cherished helpers, Ron and Jenny, who are moving to be nearer to their young family. Their hard work and warm spirits will be greatly missed, and we wish them all the best on their new journey.

For more information please contact James and Pauline on 07889 655012.

Girlguiding Woodstock

We're riding along on the crest of a wave*And the sun is in the sky...

Gang shows calling!*We're excited that this year we have Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and leaders on stage in the Oxfordshire Gang Show. They've been working hard rehearsing since October and will be performing throughout half term. Well done to them all.

We also have leaders and helpers backstage - huge thank you to them for helping get the show going.

February sees us celebrating World Thinking Day where all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides across the world come together on 22nd Feb to share their part in our worldwide movement - WAGGGS, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. We have over 10 million members.

Congratulations to all those who have achieved their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards this term.

We have spaces at all of our units so email us to find out more girlguidingwoodstock@hotmail.co.uk

Rainbows girls age 4-7 meet on a Wednesday
Brownies girls age 7-10 meet on a Monday
Guides girls age 10-14 meet on a Thursday
Trefoil for anyone 18+ meet monthly



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Regular Events

This is a new section where regular events will be listed. If you would like your event included here, please send an email to editor@wobl.news.

Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum

The Friends hold regular talks and events, which will all be listed in What's On

Kings Arms / Mandolirium

Listen to our local group in our local pub, usually every second Thursday at 6.30pm

Singing for Fun

This takes place at St Mary Magdalene Church every 1st Monday of the month at 2pm

St Mary Magdalene Church coffee morning

First Saturday of the month between 10am and 12noon. All proceeds to our local food bank.

Woodstock Lunch Club

Lunches are held in the Community Centre every 2nd Wednesday, starting from Wednesday 15 January

Woodstock 50+ Cinema Club

This Club shows films on the fourth Friday of every month at the Woodstock Methodist Church.

Woodstock Jazz

These events are usually monthly, on the last Friday of each month. The actual events will be listed in the What's On section.

Woodstock Literature Society

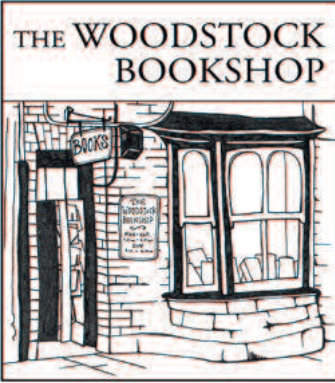
This well established society hold regular talks and events, which will all be listed in the What's On section

Woodstock and District u3a

All events are listed in What's OnSt

Wootton Village Hall Talks

These take place monthly, and will be listed in What's On



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What's On

For the latest information, please click on the Events link at www.wobl.news.

If you would like your event included here, please send an email to editor@wobl.news.

Friday 28 Feb 2025, 19:30

Woodstock Jazz - Music

Hugh Turner Band: Jazz Gets Funky with Guitarist

Hugh Turner & Pianist Maff Potts

St Hugh's Centre

Wednesday 05 Mar 2025, 19:30

Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum - Talk

Trevor Jackson: Cemeteries of Oxford - More than a Century of History

Oxfordshire Museum

Thursday 06 Mar 2025, 14:00

Woodstock and District u3a - Talk

Robert Brewer: The Roles of a TV/Film Extra.

St Hugh's Centre

Tuesday 11 Mar 2025, 19:30

Woodstock Natural History Society - Talk

Duncan Murdock: Uncovering Oxfordshire's

Dinosaur Highway

St Hugh's Centre

Monday 17 Mar 2025, 20:00

The Woodstock Society - Talk

David Keen - Shame: Politics and Power as an Emotion

St Mary Magdalene

Friday 28 Mar 2025, 19:30

Woodstock Jazz - Music

Paul Jefferies & Alex Steele Quartet: The Music of 'Sting'

St Hugh's Centre

Tuesday 01 Apr 2025, 19:30

St Hugh's Lecture Series - Talk

Dr Chris Whelan: Lawyers on Trial :Hired Guns or Heroes

St Hugh's Centre

Wednesday 02 Apr 2025, 19:30

Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum - Talk

Michael Black: Chisel, Wood, Stone: The Work and Life of Sculptor Michael Black (Speaker: Tiffany Black)

Oxfordshire Museum

Tuesday 08 Apr 2025, 19:30

Woodstock Natural History Society - Talk

Lorenzo Fornasari: Birds of Italy: European insights and Milan's avian wonders

St Hugh's Centre

Monday 14 Apr 2025, 20:00

The Woodstock Society - Talk

Graham Clifton: Working with Church Bells

St Mary Magdalene

STOP PRESS

Ducks: The 3 ducks that used to be seen in the Town Square have proliferated and we now have dozens. They have moved to the CoOp and even the A44. Sadly, some are being run over, and the Police are even being involved. Whilst it is lovely to see them in town, they are becoming a nuisance to some people, and the pavements are becoming very messy and unhygienic, so it is advisable to not feed and encourage them. The Town Council is aware and is investigating "Do Not Feed" signs.

Christmas Trees and Lights: Just as WOBL went to press, Dave Carrington (see Letter on Page 13) received a reply from the Clerk. More on this in the next issue.

Tipsy Palace: The Topsy Palace has leased the next door space and have decorated it as a lovely lounge area. They will also soon be serving food. Watch this space.

The Feathers: Has reopened, but the generators remain. The conservatory restaurant will be completed towards the end of May.

Allotments: The Police were called due to the discovery of bones in one of the allotments, but it was ascertained that they were only animal bone



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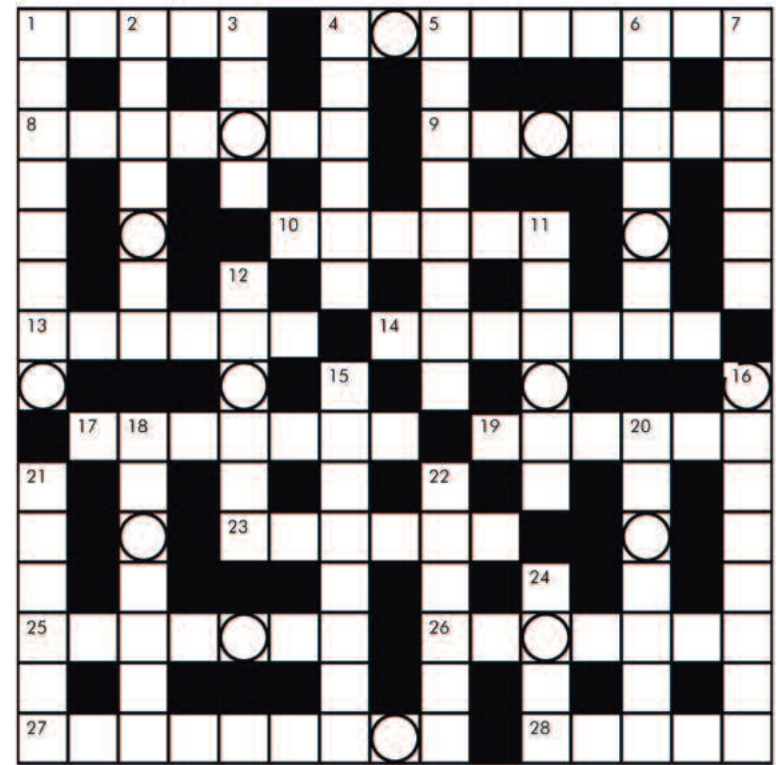


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- Across

1. Dish
4. Theatre worker
8. Drinks jug
9. Billiard table game
10. Peak
13. False
14. US state
17. Abdomen
19. Renovation
23. Bike for two
25. Male sibling
26. Definition
27. Mechanical failure
28. Stiff, firm
- Down

1. Densely populated
2. Endeavour
3. Reverberation
4. Germinate
5. Piece together
6. Bumbling
7. Boldness
11. Weapons tower
12. Hand over, turn in
15. Setting
16. Contracted
18. Larval frog
20. Increasing trend
21. Thick African tree
22. Homily
24. Just

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